LETTERS

WRITTEN BY HIS EXCELLENCY

ARTHUR CAPEL,

EARL OF ESSEX,

LORD LIEUTENANT OF

IRELAND,

IN THE YEAR 1675.

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED

An Hiſtorical Account of his LIFE, and deplorable DEATH in the Tower of LONDON.

DUBLIN:

Printed by BOULTER GRIERSON, Printer to the King's Moſt Excellent Majeſty.

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THE LIFE OF ARTHUR CAPEL, EARL OF ESSEX.

TAKEN FROM THE

BIOGRAPHIA BRITANNICA.

ARTHUR CAPEL, eldeſt ſon of Arthur, lord Capel, ſucceeded his father in his honour; and, after the reſtoration of King Charles II. on account, both of his father's loyalty and ſufferings, and his own perſonal merit, was advanced to the dignity of viſcount Malden, and earl of Eſſex, April 20, 1661, with remainder of the ſame honour, for want of iſſue male, to Henry Capel, Eſq; his brother, and the heirs male of his body; and, for want of ſuch iſſue, to Edward Capel, Eſq; his younger brother; he was made alſo Cuſtos Rotulorum, and lord lieutenant of the county of Hertford; and ſome time after,

of the county of Wilts, during the minority of the duke of Somerſet. In his younger years, his education was neglected, by reaſon of the civil wars; but, when he came to man's age, he learned the Latin tongue, and made a great progreſs in mathematicks, and in all the other parts of learning. He knew our law and conſtitution well, and was a very thoughtful man. As he appeared early againſt the court, King Charles imputing it to his reſentments, reſolved to make uſe of him; and accordingly, in 1670, ſent him embaſſador to Denmark, where his behaviour in the affair of the flag gained him much reputation (*a*). At his return, in 1672, he was

(*a*) *His behaviour in the affair of the flag gained him great reputation.*] The King of Denmark had ordered the governor of Croonenburgh to make all ſhips that paſſed ſtrike to him. So when lord Eſſex was ſailing by, the governor ſent to him, either to ſtrike to him, or to ſail by in the night, or to keep out of his reach: otherwiſe he muſt ſhoot, firſt with powder, but next with ball. Lord Eſſex ſent him a reſolute anſwer, "That the Kings of England made others ſtrike to "them, but their ſhips ſtruck to none: He would not ſteal "through in the dark, nor keep out of his reach; and if "he ſhot at him he would defend himſelf." The governor did ſhoot at him, but on deſign ſhot over him: or, according to ſome, tore his rigging. This was thought great bravery in his lordſhip: yet he reckoned, it was impoſſible the governor would endeavour to ſink a ſhip that brought an ambaſſador. Lord Eſſex's firſt buſineſs was to juſtify his behaviour in refuſing to ſtrike. Now, at his going from England, Sir John Cotton had deſired him to take ſome volumes of his library that related to Daniſh affairs;—which he took, without apprehending that he ſhould have great occaſion to uſe them: But this accident made him ſearch into them. And he found very good materials to juſtify his conduct; ſince by formal treaties it had been expreſsly ſtipulated, that the Engliſh ſhips of war ſhould not ſtrike in the Daniſh ſeas. This raiſed his character ſo high at court, that it was writ over to him, he might

ſworn of the privy council, and made lord lieutenant of Ireland. How he came to be raiſed to this poſt he could never underſtand; for he never had pretended to it; and he was a violent enemy to popery, not ſo much from any fixed principle in religion, in which he was too looſe, as becauſe he looked on it as an invaſion made on the freedom of human nature. He began his journey towards Ireland July 22, with a very noble equipage, and arriving at Dublin, had, on Auguſt 5, the ſword of ſtate delivered to him. In his government of that kingdom, he exceeded all that had gone before him, and was a pattern to all that ſhould come after. He ſtudied to underſtand well the conſtitution and intereſt of the nation. He read over all their council books, and made large abſtracts out of them, to guide him, ſo as to advance every thing that had been at any time ſet on foot for the good of the kingdom. He made ſeveral volumes of tables of the ſtate, and perſons that were in every county and town; and got true characters of all that were capable of ſerving the publick. And he preferred men always upon merit, without any application from themſelves; and watched over all about him, that there ſhould be no bribes among his ſervants. But notwithſtanding theſe noble qualifications, and his great ſervices, he was recalled in 1677, for complaining that pay-

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might expect every thing he ſhould pretend to at his return. The governor of Croonenburgh was ordered to beg his pardon upon his knees in the open ſtreet; which he did, the earl ſtanding in a balcony of his lodgings.

ments were not regularly made in Ireland (*b*), and refuſing to paſs the accounts of the earl of Ranelagh, who had the management of the revenue in that kingdom. Upon his return to England, he became one of the leading men in the houſe of lords; and one of thoſe that declared againſt the earl of Danby. That lord being ſoon after diſplaced, the earl of Eſſex was admitted into the new privy council, which was formed upon Danby's diſgrace, and was one of thoſe four leading members of it, who had the direction of affairs: the Treaſury likewiſe being put in commiſſion, he was appointed firſt and chief commiſſioner of it (*c*), on the twenty-firſt of April, 1679. But he reſigned that office (*d*) the nineteenth of

(*b*) *He was re-called—for complaining that payments wer, not regularly made in Ireland.*] The earl of Ranelagh, wher then managed the revenue of that kingdom, had undertakeo to furniſh the King with money, for the building of Windſon out of the revenue of Ireland. And it was believed, the ducheſs of Portſmouth had a great yearly penſion out of his office. By this means, payments in Ireland were not regularly made, of which the earl of Eſſex complained. The King would not own how much he had from lord Ranelagh, but preſſed lord Eſſex to paſs his accounts. He anſwered, He could not paſs them as accounts: but, if the King would forgive lord Ranelagh, he would paſs a diſcharge, but not an ill account. The King was not pleaſed with this, nor with his exactneſs in that government; it reproached his own too much. So he took a reſolution about this time to diſplace the earl of Eſſex, and to put the duke of Ormond again in his room.

(*c*) *He was appointed firſt Commiſſioner of the Treaſury*] Wherein he applied himſelf to the regulating the King's expence, and the improvement of the revenue. His clear, though ſlow, ſenſe, made him acceptable to the King.

(*d*) *He reſigned that office*] Upon the diſcovery of the meal-tub-plot, he and the earl of Halifax preſſed the King vehemently to call a parliament immediately. But the King thought, that if a parliament ſhould meet while all mens ſpi-

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November following, and continued however ſtill of the privy council. When the excluſion of the Duke of York was debated in the houſe of lords, the earl of Eſſex appeared againſt it; and he, and the earl of Halifax, propoſed ſuch limitations of the Duke's authority, when the Crown ſhould devolve on him (*e*), as would diſable him from doing any harm in church or ſtate. He was alſo thus far ſubſervient to the court, as to be for the diſſolution, rather than the prorogation of the parliament, in July 1679. And was one of the chief perſons that occaſioned the Duke of Monmouth's, and the earl of Shaftſbury's, diſgrace. But ſeeing what violent meaſures were going on, and particularly being named as an accomplice in the meal-tub plot, he reſigned his place, and turned againſt the court. Accordingly, when the Bill of Excluſion was brought a ſecond time into the houſe

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rits were ſharpened by this new diſcovery, he would find them in worſe temper than ever. When the King could not be prevailed on to do that, the earl of Eſſex left the Treaſury. The King was very uneaſy at this. But lord Eſſex was firm in his reſolution, not to meddle with that poſt more, ſince a parliament was not called: yet, at the King's earneſt deſire, he continued, for ſome time, to go to council.

(*e*) *He propoſed—limitations of the Duke of York's authority.*] Such as, the taking out of his hand all power in eccleſiaſtical matters; the diſpoſal of the publick money; with the power of peace and war, and the lodging theſe in both houſes of parliament; and that whatever parliament was in being, or the laſt that had been in being at the King's death, ſhould meet without a new ſummons, upon it, and aſſume the adminiſtration of affairs. The lords Eſſex, Sunderland, and Halifax, three of the leading members in the new privy-council, were for theſe limitations; but the earl of Shaftſbury, the fourth of the managers, declared highly againſt any limitations, which occaſioned a breach between thoſe lords; and the three firſt, joining together, were called the Triumvirate.

of lords, he argued vehemently for it: and made an extraordinary propoſal for ſecuring the expedients offered in the room of that bill (*f*). In February 1680-1, attended by fifteen peers, he preſented to the King a petition, ſubſcribed by himſelf and them, wherein they requeſted, the parliament might not ſit at Oxford, but at Weſtminſter (*g*). Alſo, he had

(*f*) *And made an extraordinary propoſal for ſecuring the expedients*, &c.] He moved in the houſe of lords, That an Aſſociation ſhould be entered into to maintain thoſe expedients, and that ſome cautionary towns ſhould be put into the hands of the Aſſociators during the King's life, to make them good after his death. But though this was agreed to, in a thin houſe, it came to nothing; the King looking upon it as a depoſing of himſelf.

(*g*) *He preſented a petition.*] At the preſenting of it, he made a ſpeech to the King, in the name of himſelf, and the lords by whom it was ſubſcribed: wherein he declares, That obſerving from hiſtory and records, how unfortunate many aſſemblies had been, when called at a place remote from the capital city [of which he brings inſtances]. And conſidering the preſent poſture of affairs, the many jealouſies and diſcontents that were among people, they had great cauſe to apprehend, that the conſequences of a parliament at Oxford, might be as fatal to his Majeſty and the nation, as thoſe he had mentioned.—The grounds and reaſons which they gave for their opinions in the petition itſelf, were, That the lords and commons could not be in ſafety at Oxford, but would be daily expoſed to the ſwords of the papiſts, and their adherents, of whom too many were crept into his Majeſty's guards; the liberty of ſpeaking, according to their conſciences, would be thereby deſtroyed; and the validity of all their acts and proceedings, concerning it, left diſputable. The ſtreightneſs of the place did no way admit of ſuch a concourſe of perſons as now follows every parliament. The witneſſes that were neceſſary to give evidence againſt the popiſh lords, judges, and others, whom the commons had impeached, or had reſolved to impeach, could neither bear the charge of going thither, nor truſt themſelves under the protection of a parliament, that was itſelf evidently under the power of guards and ſoldiers.

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an interview with the earl of Shaftſbury, before he ſet out for Holland; and generally converſed with him, and the Duke of Monmouth, lord Ruſſel, Algernon Sidney, and other perſons that were thought diſaffected. All which ſteps rendered him ſo obnoxious to the court, that he was ſtruck out of the liſt of the privy counſellors. And, in June, 1683, being accuſed by the lord Howard of Eſcrick, of being concerned in the Rye-houſe conſpiracy, called otherwiſe the Phanatic or Proteſtant plot, he was committed to the Tower (*b*). On the thirteenth of July fol-

(*b*) *Being accuſed—of being concerned in the Rye-houſe conſpiracy—he was committed to the Tower.*] Before he was impeached, he ſtaid for ſome time at his houſe in the country, and ſeemed ſo little apprehenſive of danger, that his own lady did not imagine he had any concern on his mind. He was offered to be carried away very ſafely; but he would not ſtir. His tenderneſs for lord Ruſſel was the cauſe of it: for, he thought his going out of the way might incline the jury to believe the evidence the more, for his abſconding. He ſeemed reſolved, as ſoon as he ſaw how that went, to take care of himſelf. When a party of horſe, that was ſent to fetch him up, came to his houſe, he was at firſt in ſome diſorder, yet he recovered himſelf. But, when he came before the council, he was in much confuſion. He was ſent to the Tower; and there he fell under ſo great a depreſſion of ſpirit, that he could not ſleep at all. He had fallen before that twice under great fits of the ſpleen, which returned now upon him with more violence. He ſent by a ſervant, whom he had long truſted, a very melancholy meſſage to his wife; "That what he was charged with was true: He was "ſorry he had ruined her, and her children."———But when he found how ſhe took his condition to heart, without ſeeming concerned for her own ſhare in it, he was much calmer. As to this plot, very few now believe that the earl of Eſſex, lord Ruſſel, &c. had ſo great a ſhare in it, as the court then affirmed. 'Tis very poſſible, that the evident violations of liberty and property, improved by the nearer proſpects of popery, might provoke many of the nobility and gentry

lowing, he was found in a cloſet of his lodgings there, with his throat miſerably cut. The coroner's jury brought in their verdict, the next day, that he had voluntarily and felonioufly killed and murthered himſelf; but it was then, and hath ſince been, thought, that he was murdered by Paul Bomeney, a French ſervant who attended him (*i*). His body was carried into Hert-

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gentry to enter into ſome meaſures for ſtopping the torrent of the court, and providing for the enjoyment of their eſtabliſhed laws and religion. But ſtill without having recourſe to thoſe violent and bloody means, which a few raſh and inconſiderate deſperadoes ran headlong into.

(*i*) *It was then, and has ſince been thought, that he was murdered*, &c.] The world was much divided about this lord's murder, at the time when it happened, and hath been ſo ever ſince. One ſide maintained, that he murdered himſelf; and ſo the coroner's inqueſt found it.——The information given by Bomeney in favour of this opinion, was as follows; "That when my lord Eſſex came to the Tower, "which was the 11th of July, he aſked him (Bomeney) for "a penknife to pare his nails as he was wont to do; to "which Bomeney anſwered, Being come in haſte, he had "not brought it, but he would ſend for one; and accord-"ingly ſent the footman with a note for ſeveral things for "my lord, amongſt which the penknife was inſerted; and "the footman went, and gave the bill to my lord's ſteward, "who ſent the proviſions, but not the penknife; and told "the footman he would get one next day.—Accordingly, on "the 12th in the morning, before my lord was up, Bomeney "ſent the footman home with a note to the ſteward, in which, "amongſt other things he aſked for a penknife for my lord: "When the footman was gone, about, or a little after eight "o'clock, my lord ſent Mr. Ruſſel, his warder, to Bomeney, "who came, and then he aſked him, If the penknife was "come? Bomeney ſaid, No, my lord, but I ſhall have it by "and by; to which my lord ſaid, That he ſhould bring him "one of his razors, it would do as well: And then Bomeney "went and fetched one, and gave it my lord, who began to "pare his nails, and then Bomeney went out of the room "into the paſſage by the door on Friday the 13th, and began

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fordſhire, and interred in a vault belonging to the family, in the pariſh-church of Watford. As to his character, he was a perſon of an agree-

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" to talk with the warder, and a little while after he went " down ſtairs; and ſoon after came the footman with the " proviſions, and brought alſo a penknife, which Bomeney " put upon his bed, and thought my lord had no more need " of it, becauſe he thought he had pared his nails; and then " Bomeney came up to my lord's chamber, about eight or " nine in the forenoon of Friday the 13th, with a little note " from the ſteward; but not finding his lord in the chamber, " went to the cloſe-ſtool cloſet door, and found it ſhut; and " he thinking his lord was buſy there, went down and ſtaid " a little, and came up again, thinking his lord had been " come out of the cloſet, and finding him not in the cham- " ber, he knocked at the door with his finger, thrice, and " ſaid, My lord? But no body anſwering, he took up the " hanging, and looking through the chink, he ſaw blood, " and a part of the razor; whereupon he called the warder, " Ruſſel, and went down to call for help; and the ſaid Ruſſel, " puſhed the door open, and there they ſaw my lord of Eſſex " all along the floor, without a peruke, and all full of blood, " and the razor by him."——Thomas Ruſſel's information, printed at the end of this, is to the ſame purpoſe, except, that it mentions only the 13th of July. And to render this account the more probable, it is ſaid, That lord Eſſex had got into an odd ſet of ſome ſtrange principles: and in particular he thought, a man was the maſter of his own life; and ſeemed to approve of what his wife's great-grandfather, the earl of Northumberland, did, who ſhot himſelf in the Tower after he was arraigned. He had alſo very black fits of the ſpleen.

But, on the other hand, in order to prove, that the earl of Eſſex did not murder himſelf, it is alledged, 1. That he was a nobleman of moſt virtuous and religious principles, of the greateſt ſedateneſs of mind, leaſt ſubject to the undue agitation of unruly paſſions, and moſt under the conduct of a calm, ſteady, ſtrong, clear, and well poiſed reaſon, of any man. That the perſons, who were reported to have heard him ſay what is mentioned above, concerning his great-grandfather, being aſked about it, declared, they never heard any

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able ſtature, ſlender in body, adorned with a comely countenance, mixed with gravity and ſweetneſs, and was eaſy of acceſs; his mind was

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ſuch thing from him: that his lady in particular affirmed, that he uſed to ſpeak againſt ſelf-murder with an emotion beyond what was cuſtomary to him, and that he often declared, That no circumſtances whatſoever could extenuate the guilt, or leſſen the infamy, of ſo unnatural and wicked a fact. 2. That he could have no ſuch premeditated deſign. For, the day before his murder, he had ordered his ſervants to bring up out of the country ſeveral veſſels of ſilver, neceſſary for dreſſing of victuals. And had laid in a conſiderable quantity of the beſt of wines. Moreover, that he had given private directions to his ſteward, to place himſelf as conveniently as he could at the lord Ruſſel's trial, the better to take the evidence againſt him in ſhort hand, and convey it to him. 3. That the news of the earl of Eſſex's murder was publickly talked of at ſeveral diſtant places, before it was perpetrated; namely, two days before, at Andover in Hampſhire: the day before, at Warminſter in Wiltſhire; and the ſame day it was committed, at Froom in Somerſetſhire, ninety miles from London. And, therefore that it was contrived, and done by others. 4. That Jane Lodeman, a young woman about thirteen, and William Edwards, a youth between thirteen and fourteen years of age, being at the Tower that morning the earl of Eſſex was found murthered, they ſaw a bloody razor thrown out of his chamber-window: which the boy going to take up, a ſhort woman, in a white hood, came out of captain Hawley's houſe, where the earl lodged, and ſnatching up the razor carried it in; immediately after which, murder was cried out. The boy denied this afterwards, but is ſaid to have been terrified by one of his ſiſters, who told him, that he would ruin his father (who had a place in the cuſtom-houſe) and the reſt of the family, if he perſiſted in it, and would bring both himſelf and his father to be hanged. The prevarication of chief juſtice Jefferies and captain Hawley, was very glaring upon this point: for they inſiſted, that nothing could be well thrown out of the cloſet-window where the earl was found murdered; whereas the boy and girl both, ſpoke of the chamber, not of the cloſet-window; 5. That the print of a bloody foot appeared on one of my lords ſtockings. That the neck, or middle of his cravat, was cut

ſedate, but his diſcourſes were generally free and pleaſant; and his demeanour very civil; his promiſes were real and ſincere; his reprimands

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cut in four pieces; and tied ſo hard, that there was reaſon to gueſs, an attempt had been made to ſtrangle him with it. 6. That his lordſhip's body was taken out of the cloſet, where it was found, ſtripped and waſhed, and the cloaths carried away; and, alſo the cloſet and room, were waſhed, before the coroner's inqueſt were permitted to ſit on the body; which was not till the day after the murder was committed. One of the jury deſiring to ſee the clothes, the coroner told him, "They were called to ſit upon my lord's body, and "not on his clothes; and that it was ſufficient they had ſeen "the body, and received an account upon oath how it was "found." 7. That it was impoſſible the earl ſhould cut his own throat in the manner it was done. The two chirurgeons who viewed the body with the coroner, depoſed, "That the "throat was cut from one jugular to the other, and through "the wind-pipe and gullet, unto the vertebres of the neck, "both jugular veins being alſo quite divided." Now, the razor wherewith he was ſaid to have killed himſelf, being a ſmall French razor, about four inches and a half long at moſt, without ſpill or tongue at the end of the blade, it could not be held with ſtrength and ſteadineſs ſufficient to make ſuch a wound, a wound eight inches long and four inches deep, unleſs the hand and fingers graſped two inches of it at leaſt; and how the other two inches and a half of the razor, could make ſuch a long and deep wound, as deſcribed by the chirurgeons, is incredible. 8. In ſhort, it is ſaid, That this murder was committed by the Duke of York's contrivance and direction, and perpetrated by the earls of Sutherland and Feverſham, and Paul Bomeney, my lord's valet de chambre. In proof of which it is obſerved, 9. That the King and Duke of York were that morning in the Tower, from ſix o'clock till nine, where they had not been for twelve years before. 10. That the centinels, which uſed to be changed every two hours, continued upon duty from four to ten o'clock in the morning; being, probably, perſons that could beſt be truſted. However, that the day but one after the murder, they were called together, and ſtrictly charged not to ſpeak of what they had ſeen or heard. But captain Hawley having whiſpered ſomething about it, was found murthered. And

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ſmart and ingenious, having a quick apprehenſion; good elocution, ſound judgment, great courage, and reſolution unalterable; he was always wary and circumſpect in council, where he endeavoured to obſtruct all arbitrary power, and the increaſe of the popiſh intereſt, having a particular regard for the eſtabliſhed religion of his country: tho' others affirm, that he was too looſe in point of religion; and that he had an odd ſet of ſome ſtrange principles. With regard to his political notions, he thought, the obliga-

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Robert Meak, one of the centinels, not being ſo ſilent as deſired, was murdered, and thrown into the Tower-ditch. 11. That a gate, at the lower end of thoſe apartments where my lord Eſſex was confined, which uſed to ſtand open from morning till night, was all that morning kept ſhut, by a ſpecial order, till his lordſhip was dead. 12. That the King and Duke having been at the lieutenant's houſe, about the middle of the alley where the earl was impriſoned, the Duke did ſoon after, with ſeveral waiting upon him, withdraw from the King, down into the alley, the gate whereof was ſtill kept ſhut. 13. That the Duke having withdrawn from the King, ſeveral perſons were immediately ſent from his ſide towards the earl of Eſſex's lodgings, which returned not till after his death. 14. That Paul Bomeney was juſtly ſuſpected by the reſt of my lord's ſervants, by the laſt earl of Eſſex, and many other perſons, to be the author of his maſter's death. Upon that ſuſpicion, the counteſs diſmiſſed him out of the family. But he was, thereupon, cheriſhed and entertained by the court, and made one of the life-guards. As an evidence of his guilt, he was extremely frightened at the enquiry made into his maſter's death. 15. But that the court was alſo acceſſory to this murder, is ſtrongly ſuſpected, becauſe they ſo earneſtly diſcouraged all manner of enquiry into it. For one Mr. Lawrence Braddon, who was very active in diſcovering the true authors of this barbarous murder, was fined 2000l. in the King's-bench, and Mr. Hugh Speke 1000l. After all, by whom it was committed, is one of thoſe ſecrets, which cannot be fully revealed till the laſt great day of accounts.

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tion between Prince and ſubject were ſo equally mutual, that upon a breach of the one ſide, the other was free. He was very temperate in his diet, ſtrict in his juſtice, tender of his honour, and conſtant to his friend; he delighted much in his library, which enabled him to ſpeak on all occaſions with applauſe, and would ſpend his vacant hours in viewing of records, and learning the mathematicks. Theſe were his diverſions, together with recreating himſelf in his fine gardens, and pleaſant groves, which were of his own plantation. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Algernon earl of Northumberland, by whom he had ſix ſons and two daughters. But, only Algernon, the fifth ſon, and the youngeſt daughter ſurvived him. Her name was Ann, and ſhe was married to Charles earl of Carliſle.

Algernon, Earl of Eſſex, was gentleman of the bed-chamber to King William, colonel of a regiment of dragoons, ſerved under him in Flanders, diſtinguiſhed himſelf at the battle of Landen, and attended at the great congreſs in 1690. In the reign of Queen Anne, he was conſtable of the Tower of London, lieutenant general of her armies, and colonel of Dragoons. He was alſo, in both reigns, lord lieutenant and Cuſtos Rotulorum of Hertfordſhire and St. Albans. He died Jan. 10, 1709-10. leaving iſſue by the lady Mary Bentick, eldeſt daughter of William earl of Portland, William the late earl of Eſſex, and two daughters, the lady Elizabeth, and the lady Mary. William the preſent earl of Eſſex is under age.

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tion between Prince and Subject were so equally mutual, that upon a breach of the one side, the other was free. He was very temperate in his diet, strict in his justice, tender of his honour, and constant to his friend; he delighted much in his library, which enabled him to speak on all occasions with applause, and would spend his vacant hours in viewing of records, and learning the mathematicks. These were his diversions, together with recreating himself in his fine gardens, and pleasant groves, which were of his own plantation. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Algernon earl of Northumberland, by whom he had six sons and two daughters. But only Algernon, the fifth son, and the youngest daughter survived him. Her name was Anne, and she was married to Charles earl of Carlisle.

Algernon, Earl of Essex, was gentleman of the bed-chamber to King William, colonel of a regiment of dragoons, served under him in Flanders, distinguished himself at the battle of Landen, and attended at the great congress in 1699. In the reign of Queen Anne, he was constable of the Tower of London, lieutenant general of her armies, and colonel of Dragoons. He was also, in both reigns, lord lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of Hertfordshire and St. Albans. He died Jan. 10, 1709-10, leaving issue by the lady Mary Beatrice, eldest daughter of William earl of Portland, William the late earl of Essex, and two daughters, the lady Elizabeth, and the lady Mary. William the present earl of Essex is under age.

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LETTERS

WRITTEN BY HIS EXCELLENCY

ARTHUR CAPEL,

EARL OF ESSEX,

LORD LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND,

IN THE YEAR 1675.

To Mr. Hugh May.

Couſin, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 5. 1674-5.

YOURS of the 4th of December hath come to my hands, wherein you have paid me a greater acknowledgment for the ſmall preſent which my brother ſent you by my direction, than ſo ſlight a thing deſerves. I have received many kindneſſes from you ſince my being here, and indeed your friendſhip is that which I value very much, and I doubt not of the continuance thereof. In the ſtation where

I am, my abſence from the court often expoſeth both my words and actions to miſrepreſentations of divers kinds, and therefore I cannot but ſtand in need of the aſſiſtance of thoſe who are diſpoſed to be juſt to me in the offices of a true friend; and as I have ever found you favourable to my concerns, ſo you may aſſure yourſelf of my reality in ſerving you whenever an occaſion ſhall offer, of expreſſing myſelf,

Your moſt affectionate kinſman,
and moſt faithful ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Secretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 5. 1674-5.

I Am to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 22d of December, wherein you mention a book that was newly publiſhed, concerning the cruelties committed in Ireland at the beginning of the late war: upon further enquiry I find, Sir J. Temple, maſter of the rolls here, author of that book, was this laſt year ſent to by ſeveral ſtationers of London, to have his conſent to the printing thereof; but he aſſures me, that he utterly denied it, and whoever printed it did it without his knowledge. Thus much I thought fit to add to what I formerly ſaid upon this occaſion, that I might do this gentleman right in caſe it were ſuſpected he had any ſhare in publiſhing this new edition. You will herewith incloſed receive a draft of a letter prepared for his Majeſty's ſignature, itſelf ſtates the caſe for which it is propoſed: in ſhort 'tis thus, the Act of Uniformity provides, upon the penalty of loſs of their preferment, that all beneficed clergymen, fellows of

colleges,

colleges, &c. do, by a certain time therein prefixed, ſubſcribe the Declaration, or acknowledgment therein contained. Several of the fellows of this college have happened to ſlip their time, not through any ill principle, but barely through inadvertency, as my lord primate, their vice chancellor, informs me; and indeed, many good and conformable men; yet, however, by the letter of the law, they are deprived. Therefore I deſire you would move his Majeſty to ſend this incloſed, directed to the provoſt of the college, that they may be reſtored to their places. Having nothing further to trouble you with, I remain,

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Our well beloved Dr. Thomas Serle, Our Provoſt of Trinity College, near Dublin.

RIGHT truſty, &c. We greet you well. Whereas by an act of parliament, intitled, "An act for the Uniformity of Publick Prayers," it is among other things enacted, That all maſters, and other heads, fellows, chaplains, and tutors of and in any college, hall, houſe of learning, or hoſpital, ſhall before the 29th day of September 1667, or at or before his or their reſpective admiſſions, ſubſcribe the Declaration or acknowledgment in the ſaid act contained, under the penalties and forfeitures in the ſaid act mentioned. And whereas William Palliſer, Nathaniel Foye, James Kyan, John Pooley, George Mercer, have been according to ſtatutes of Our college of Dublin in Our kingdom of Ireland, made, admitted and eſtabliſhed ſenior fellows, and

Patrick Fitzſimons, Tobias Pullen, Patrick Chriſtian, Richard Acton, Thomas Wallis, Philip Barber, Giles Pooley, George Brown, and William Floyd, junior fellows of Our ſaid college. And whereas the ſaid William Palliſer, and the ſaid other perſons, having, as We are informed, overſeen the affixed clauſe in the ſaid act, or not conceiving themſelves included therein, have for ſome time omitted to ſubſcribe the ſaid Declaration, in manner as by the ſaid act is required; but of which failure of theirs being lately made ſenſible, they have, as We are informed, tho' not within the time limited by the ſaid act, ſolemnly declared and ſubſcribed to the ſaid Declaration in the ſaid act mentioned, before the moſt reverend father in God, James, lord archbiſhop of Ardmagh, primate of all Ireland, and vice chancellor of Our ſaid college. And whereas the ſaid Palliſer and the ſaid other perſons having by their omiſſion as aforeſaid juſtly incurred Our diſpleaſure, and become liable to the penalty by the ſaid act to be inflicted on them; yet in regard it hath been humbly repreſented unto Us by Our right truſty and right well beloved couſin and counſellor Arthur earl of Eſſex, lord lieutenant general and governor of Our ſaid kingdom of Ireland, that the ſaid omiſſion or failure of ſubſcribing, was not in contempt of Our ſaid act, or diſloyalty to Us, but rather in not knowing or not remembring the ſaid Declaration; and that the ſaid perſons, (the ſaid omiſſion excepted) as alſo the whole ſociety of Our ſaid college, have conſtantly demeaned themſelves with all loyalty to Us, and conformity to the ſaid ſtatutes of Our ſaid college: We therefore in Our princely conſideration had of the premiſſes, do require and command you, on ſight hereof, to re-admit, reſtore, and confirm the ſaid William Palliſer, Nathaniel Foye, James Kyan,

Kyan, John Pooley, and George Mercer, into the ſenior fellowſhips of the ſaid college; and the ſaid Patrick Fitzſimons, Tobias Pullen, Patrick Chriſtian, Richard Acton, Thomas Wallis, Philip Barber, Giles Pooley, George Brown, and William Loyd, into the junior fellowſhips of the ſaid college, according to ſuch places, ſeniority and precedency as each of them before held or enjoyed the ſame. And We do hereby re-admit, reſtore, and confirm them in their ſaid places in manner as aforeſaid, to be held and enjoyed by them together, with all ſalaries, profits, and emoluments belonging and appertaining to the ſenior and junior fellowſhips reſpectively, for, and during their reſpective reſidence in Our ſaid college, each of the ſaid junior fellows ſo to continue until admitted as ſenior fellows. And further, in Our tender care of Our ſaid college and univerſity, We do hereby ratify and confirm all and every thing and things which the ſaid fellows, or any of them, have done purſuant to the laws, orders, and ſtatutes of the ſaid college, ſince their ſaid omiſſion of ſubſcribing or declaring as aforeſaid; and require that what hath been acted by them as aforeſaid, be conſtrued and held to be as firm and valid as if no ſuch failure or omiſſion had been; for which this ſhall be the warrant. Given, &c.

To the Earl of Suffolk.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 5, 1674-5.

I Have received your lordſhip's of the 26th of December, concerning the intereſt due to your lordſhip from the commiſſioners of the treaſury here for 5000l. being their laſt payment to your lordſhip. I made the agreement with them on your lordſhip's be-

half, that they ſhould pay the money at a certain day, viz. on the 10th of January laſt, and that if they failed of their part, they ſhould allow intereſt at 10 per cent. for ſo long as they ſhould detain the money in their hands, or not ſubſcribe ſuch aſſignments on the farmers, as the farmers would accept of; and alſo, that in caſe the exchange ſhould riſe higher to your lordſhip's diſadvantage, who muſt return it into England, they were to bear the loſs, and to make it up to your lordſhip, as the money might be returned at the ſame rate as if it had been paid in by the time they engaged for it. The 5000 l. has long time been aſſigned on the farmers, but the commiſſioners of the treaſury conceiving they had dealt very well with your lordſhip in making payment of ſo great a ſum, and it happening that the exchange did alter much for your lordſhip's advantage when they aſſigned the money, they hoped that your lordſhip would not expect intereſt for it, and deſired me to write to your lordſhip againſt my lord Ranelagh's going over, concerning the matter, and told my lord my lord Ranelagh would diſcourſe it further with you. I indeed forgot to write to your lordſhip at that time, but now ſince I have received your letter, I deſire your lordſhip will pleaſe to diſcourſe this matter again with my lord Ranelagh, and let me hear from you afterward, and then I ſhall give order in the affair. I am, with perfect truth,

Your lordſhip's moſt faithful,
and moſt humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To

To Mr. Harbord.

Mr. Harbord, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 5, 1674-5.

MINE of the 19th of December acknowledged the receipt of yours of the 12th of the ſame month, ſince which time I have wrote but one to you, dated the 22d, after that there have come to my hands of your letters one of the 15th, and another of the 19th, as alſo one of the 22d, and another of the 24th of December, wherein there is nothing to be anſwered but what relates to your coming over hither. There are two things which may oblige you to ſtay where you are; the firſt is to obſerve my lord Ranelagh and his actings, the ſecond the new letting of the farm of his Majeſty's revenue; for as for the ſitting of the parliament, in caſe they ſhould meet, and which I believe they will not, you may be back time enough upon notice, when it is certain that they will convene. My lord Ranelagh having been ſome weeks in England, I ſuppoſe by that time you return out of the country, you may be able to diſcern whether his actings be ſuitable to his profeſſions, ſo as that I conceive will not ſtay you there. As for the letting of the farm, you muſt inform yourſelf as well as you can upon the place, it being impoſſible for me to underſtand what is done there; but for ſome reaſons you know it were beſt you were preſent when 'tis let; and 'tis very probable they will go about it now, I having ſent over to my lord treaſurer the farmers accounts, delivered in upon oath, of what they had made of the preſent farm. Upon the whole, I cannot ſee any thing unleſs this of the farm, to hinder your coming, and therefore I ſhould be glad you were here as you deſign, and that at the time when my brother intends to be in London. In relation to your ſtay, I had much rather have you continue in this

place than in England, having often occaſions for you, but you know how uncertain matters are on this ſide of the water, and therefore we muſt be guided by what we hear from thence; for I am fully ſatisfied with your care of my buſineſs there, and on theſe grounds do wholly leave it to you to conſider what is beſt to be done; only I do agree with you, that it were fit that you came over hither, tho' you went back again by Eaſter.

I have by this pacquet ſent a draft of a letter to Mr. ſecretary Coventry, for reſtoring of moſt of the fellows of this college of Dublin to their fellowſhips, they having ſlipt their time of ſubſcribing their aſſent and conſent, according to the Act of Uniformity; and this happening only through inadvertency, the men being good men and conformable to the church, I have recommended their caſe into England, and deſire you will mind Mr. ſecretary Coventry to get the letter diſpatched; and if they have no agent there, do you pay the fees of the office, and I will ſee them repay you again here.

Pray take care of the letter I ſent you by Mr. Hillyard, and when you come over bring it along with you, for I have loſt the copy of one part thereof.

By this pacquet I have ſent over a bill to my brother Henry for 1000 l. to be paid at 14 days ſight.

I am your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Arthur Forbeſe.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 9, 1674-5.

I Have receiv'd yours of the 6th inſtant, and together with it one from my lord Conway, wherein I had an account that the Norwich frigate, now with you,

you, had orders to revictual at Kinſale, which I hold to be no way convenient, the voyage being ſo great, and ſuch as requiring ſeveral winds, the ſhip may poſſible be abſent two or three months ere ſhe can go thither and return to you again: I have therefore wrote to Mr. Southwell to know what directions he has received from England concerning the victualling of this ſhip; and, if conſiſtent with the orders from thence, I ſhall appoint him rather to return money hither to provide victuals in this town and ſend down, or ſend the money to Carrickfergus, and have her victualled there, which of theſe two ſhall prove the moſt cheap and expedient; but for her going to Kinſale my opinion is thereby againſt it, unleſs the orders be ſo peremptory as I may not properly ſuperſede them. Tho' I had the notice concerning this ſhip from my lord Conway, yet I have anſwered it in your letter, preſuming you two do communicate your letters with one another. There has been a large proportion of biſket ſent down to you: I doubt not you ſometimes make enquiry in what condition it is; and I deſire you would conſider whether it may not be beſt that the ſoldiers do ſpend of it, and that we make a ſupply of new; for if it be too ſtale, poſſible it may not be fit to uſe. If it remain in good condition, and like to laſt ſo, ſome of it, as I conceive, may properly enough be employed to revictual this ſhip, in caſe they do victual here, and we may furniſh ſo much new to be kept in ſtore, if his Majeſty's affairs ſhould require you to march.

I give you thanks for the ſight of the two incloſed letters, which I have herewith returned you, and remain with perfect truth,

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To

To the Lord Conway.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 9, 1674-5.

I AM but juſt now returned home from hunting, being abroad all day, and have time only to acknowledge the receipt of your lordſhip's letter dated the 6th inſtant, and to ſend you the news letters come in by this paquet, my other letters from London give me no further intelligence than what you will find in theſe, I ſhall therefore ſay no more to you, hoping in a ſhort time to ſee your lordſhip here, where you will be very welcome to your lordſhip's

Moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Chancellor of Ireland.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 10, 1674-5.

I Have received yours of the 9th inſtant, together with the papers incloſed, which give an account of the killing of two men in the county of Londonderry, if they prove to be tories, 'tis very well they are gone; however, the inquiſition taken by mr. Phillips for want of a coroner in that barony, upon the death of theſe men, ſeems to be a bill out of the way, the jury finding theſe men to be robbers, a matter I ſuppoſe not properly inquirable by a coroner's jury; 'twill be neceſſary to give the judges who go that circuit particular directions to examine this buſineſs, and truly, in caſe the men are proved to be of this lawleſs ſort of people, I think it will not only be neceſſary to grant thoſe a pardon who killed them, but alſo, that they have ſome reward for their own and others encouragement. The letter of the archbiſhop of Tuam, which your grace ſent me at your going

going out of town, mentioned a perſon who ſhould be nominated ſheriff for the county of Gallway, whom he believes to be a papiſt; there was one Stubbs, if I miſtake not, that I at firſt pitched upon, but he being certainly gone out of the way, I was forced to fix upon another, whoſe name is Oliver Ormeſby, ſo 'tis a miſtake in the archbiſhop of Tuam.

I am, your Grace's,
moſt faithful and moſt affectionate ſervant,
ESSEX.

To the Earl of Clarendon.

Dear Brother, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 12, 1674-5.

WHEN dear George went over I troubled you with a line or two from hence, but did not then well know where it would meet you, being at that time gone into France, this laſt packet bringing me an account of your return, I could not omit this firſt opportunity to let you know how nearly concerned I am for you, or any thing that befalls you, I do aſſure you, that no friend you have does more heartily condole with you for the loſs of your father than myſelf, who have ever had, and ſhall always retain a perfect kindneſs for your lordſhip, and all that relates to you, you will excuſe my making uſe of another hand than my own upon this occaſion, I having been a little ill and taking ſome phyſick this day.

I am, Your moſt affectionate brother,
and faithful ſervant,
ESSEX.

To

To the Lord Ranalagh.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 12, 1674-5.

I Have received yours of the 5th inſtant, which gives me an accout, that you have procured two letters in behalf of ſir Arthur Forbeſe, as alſo that ſir Theophilus Jones's affair is like to ſucceed, both which I am glad to hear, ſeveral letters are come to me for the remittal of quit rents, theſe you may be ſure I will not paſs, till my lord treaſurer be made acquainted with them.

If my lord of Inchiquin do part with his troop, and that your lordſhip have a mind to deal with him for it, I ſhall moſt readily give my conſent, and ſo ſoon as I have notice that the matter is agreed between you, ſhall order a commiſſion for your lordſhip, it being moſt reaſonable, that having ſo conſiderable a goment as Athlone, you ſhould be accommodated either with a troop or company, or both.

I wiſh the affair of Portleiſter were once at an end one way or other, and that I knew what I were to do in it, for till I hear again from England I ſhall keep it in ſuſpence. As for mrs. Willoghby's penſion, I have ſaid as much in my letters to my lord treaſurer and your lordſhip as I can offer upon that ſubject, and ſo leave it to his Majeſty's determination. There are orders of concordatum, if I miſtake not, already ſigned for mr. Bridgeman to Michaelmas laſt, and from thence mr. Thinne begins, ſo as if mr. Bridgeman is not paid, 'tis only for want of ſomebody to call for the money. Upon the death of my lord Dillon who left no ſons, that honour and eſtate going to a couſin of his, I find many people offering at diſcoveries of ſeveral lands which he poſſeſſed, and did not of right belong to him, and I doubt not but ſome will be endeavouring to procure

letters

letters on that ſide for grants out of this eſtate, there is I am confident a great deal that he enjoyed, which by his decree he ought not to have, but how any man can bring them in as diſcoveries, ſince I have had a ſight of them by me near a twelvemonth extracted out of the records, whereby it appears that other men, and not the lord Dillon, were proprietors thereof in the year 1641, I do not well underſtand, it is as all other mens decrees, being only to be reſtored to ſuch right, title and intereſt as they had in the year 1641, and cannot confirm to them theſe lands which were the property of other men; however the proprietors in his time were glad to ſhelter themſelves under his name, and theſe now fearing an inquiry, are, as I hear, labouring to get ſome other great men to patronize their eſtates, and will themſelves become the diſcoverers, moſt, tho' not all of theſe lands are in the province of Conaught, and may properly fall under conſideration, when the letter for ſettling the Conaught eſtates ſhall come over.

This I tell your lordſhip, that if you find any thing ſtirring there in relation to this buſineſs, you may acquaint either his Majeſty, or my lord treaſurer, that I believe few or none of theſe lands will be real diſcoveries, being ſuch as I have already mentioned, that I knew of before, and by the records will be made out, therefore I would be glad they might be kept undiſpoſed 'till ſome general rules be given for the diſtribution of all the lands which are not as yet regularly ſettled, and I do the rather tell your lordſhip of this particular eſtate becauſe I knew it to be one of the greateſt covers of concealed lands in the kingdom.

By

By the next, the holidays being over, I ſhall hope to receive an anſwer from your lordſhip to ſome of thoſe affairs, which I deſired you to get diſpatch'd,

I am, your lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,
ESSEX.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 12, 1674-5.

THERE are four companies here in Ireland, which formerly were of prince Ruperts regiment of dragoons in England, and before that ſerved his Majeſty in a regiment at Barbadoes. Theſe companies have arrears due to them for their ſervice done at Barbadoes, which arrears, as they inform me, have by your lordſhip's orders been ſtated in England; the officers have made application to me deſiring my letter to your lordſhip in their favour, I do find theſe companies to be as good men as any that came over, and their officers are indeed very well deſerving, wherefore I intreat your lordſhip in their behalf, that you would be pleaſed to concern yourſelf ſo far, as to ſee right done them in the payment of their arrears, wherein as you will do an act both of juſtice and charity to theſe men, thereby encourage them and all others who ſerve his Majeſty in his army, ſo you will alſo by it oblige,

Your lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,
ESSEX.

The gentleman who brings your lordſhip this letter, is mr. Trant their agent, who will mind your lordſhip of their concerns, and attend your pleaſure therein.

To

To Mr. Harbord.

Mr. Harbord, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 16, 1674-5.

THE laſt of yours I received, was dated from Grafton the 29th of December, I ſuppoſe by that time this arrives, you will be at London. Your father's letter concerning Eſſex-houſe came to me a while ago, and there ſeems great diſproportion between the value that thoſe who viewed it have ſet, and the price which is aſked, if mr. Thinne do come to a price that is pretty near reaſon, I would have you to purſue my former direction, and by my lord of Arl, or my lord treaſurer, or both, to try if the King will give a help towards it, for indeed I am yet deſirous of it if it can be obtained. Sir William Churchill hath by colonel Jefferies ſent me one of his books, I would have you go to him, and give him thanks from me for it.

There being nothing further at preſent to ſay to you, I remain,

Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To Sir Charles Harbord.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 16, 1674-5.

THE receipt of yours was very grateful to me, not only for the true account you gave me concerning Eſſex-houſe, but much more becauſe it brought me the aſſurance of your recovery from your late illneſs, I have not yet heard preciſely what terms mr. Thinne ſtands upon, but in caſe he will take reaſon, and that I can find means to compaſs it, I am ſure it would be a great convenience to me to be provided of a dwelling in town, and I confeſs

I had

I had rather have this than any other, but I do fully agree with you in opinion, that no man ever profitted by borrowing money for to buy land or houſes, much leſs to build; your ſon fully knows what way I propoſed to myſelf for making this purchaſe, if the price be reduced to a proportion fit to be given.

My wife preſents her ſervice to you, and I deſire you will believe me to be ever,

Your moſt affectionate,
and moſt faithful ſervant,
ESSEX.

To Sir Arthur Forbeſe.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 16, 1674-5.

I Have enquired how the account ſtands between my lord Brabzon and his troop, whereof you gave me notice in your's of the 9th inſtant, that his lordſhip had impreſted all the pay belonging to them, and I do find, that upon ſome reckonings and debts between him and the commiſſioners of the treaſury, he hath money in his hands which belongs to his troop, but the matter is ſo adjuſted between them, as they have engaged upon Tueſday next to ſend down orders for immediate payment to the troop of all that is due to them, which they tell me will be a months pay compleat, 20 s. only being deducted upon ſome orders for debts of four or five of the ſoldiers, ſo as I hope this money will enable them to march. Some intelligence hath come to me of two perſons lately ſecured in the King's county, the name of one is major Montgomery, and the name of the other is Wall, they are ſaid to be ſome of thoſe who raiſed a petty rebellion in Scotland, ſome years paſt, I remember that capt. Barclay, who now hath ſir Edward Maſſey's company,

company, and is with you, once told me that he was employed by his Majeſty's particular warrant to apprehend ſeveral of thoſe men who ſtirred this ſedition in Scotland, and ſhewed me a liſt of their names, wherefore I deſire you would ſpeak with him and know whether either of them be of thoſe perſons whom he endeavoured to apprehend, and that you would be pleaſed to give me an account what he ſaid, in the mean time I have ſent into the country to have a more diſtinct knowledge of the thing.

I am, your moſt faithful and
moſt affectionate ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Earl of Arlington.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 24, 1674-5.

THIS laſt packet bringing the news of your lordſhip's ſafe arrival out of Holland, I could not omit the firſt opportunity of welcoming your lordſhip home, and telling you that no intelligence is more pleaſing to me than that which conveys a confirmation of your lordſhip's welfare and proſperity, the continuance whereof, as I do moſt really wiſh, ſo ſhall I never doubt of my being relieved in your memory, under the qualification of

Your lordſhip's, moſt faithful
and moſt humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Biſhop of London.

My lord, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 23, 1674-5.

FROM Dr. Goodman I did this laſt poſt receive an account of the great favour your lordſhip had done him in confirming the rectory of Hadham upon him, and tho' he be a gentleman very worthy in himſelf, and whoſe merits might well recommend him to your lordſhip, yet conſidering the circumſtances of the thing, it being the pariſh where my other houſe ſtands, I cannot but attribute a great ſhare of his preferment to your lordſhips reſpect towards me, and do therefore upon both ſcores give your lordſhip many thanks for this your kindneſs to him, and own it as an obligation to myſelf, I have been more than ordinary careful whom I ſhould preſent to the vicarage of Wattford, in regard the people there are and have ever been (as your lordſhip well knows) very factious and uneaſy towards their miniſter, wherefore upon this vacancy I deſire your lordſhip to do me the favour to find out a perſon that may be fit for this place, I ſhould like it well that he be a good preacher, as well as a prudent man, becauſe that when I am in England, I ſhall for the moſt part reſide there, ſo ſoon as your lordſhip ſhall pleaſe to nominate one to me I ſhall ſign a preſentation and ſend it over.

I am, your lordſhip's moſt faithful
amd moſt humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To

To Doctor Goodman.

Dr. Goodman, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 23, 1674-5.

YOUR letter of the 6th of January, wherein you acquaint me with the lord biſhop of London's kindneſs to you came to me on the 20th inſtant, I am very glad you are ſo well provided for, and like it much the better that it falls out to be in that place, and truly I take it extream kindly of his lordſhip that he thought of you for it, in regard he knew you to be a perſon for whom I had a good eſteem. The encloſed letter, a copy whereof is herewith ſent for you to peruſe, will tell you that I deſire his lordſhip to recommend a perſon to me to ſucceed you in Wattford; by which means mr. Beveridge, the gentleman you mention I ſuppoſe will have it; the only thing I doubt of him is, leaſt having a good living in London he will ſpend moſt of his time there, whereas I would not willingly have Wattford church be without a good preacher, it being the place where I ſhall for the moſt part reſide when I am in England. As for mr. Powell, I deſire you would ſpeak with him yourſelf, and let him know he ſhall not be forgotten when I have an opportunity, tho' this pariſh I conceive requires a man who hath a good deal of experience in the world. By a former letter of yours, you recommended one dean Sherridan to me, I am confident he hath much deceived yourſelf, and thoſe other gentlemen you named in England into a good opinion of him, for I cannot find but that he is the moſt improper perſon in the world for the employment he ſeeks. I am,

Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Arthur Forbeſe.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 23, 1674-5.

IN my laſt I mentioned to you ſomething of two Scotchmen, major Montgomery and one Wall, deſiring you to enquire of captain Barkley, who being now by your leave come up to town, I can inform myſelf from him.

Your laſt letter told me, that major Andrews company was in arrear for their pay; upon examination I find that they are in the ſame ſtate with the other companies now with you, only the perſonal pay of major Andrews is by his own order detained by ſir John Champante to be returned into England, which his lieutenant likes not, but would have the captains money paid to himſelf, and that I believe will be found to be the difference. I have here ſent you an abſtract of the account whereby you will ſee the company is overpaid 32 l. from mr. Southwell at Kinſale, I hear that his orders are poſitive for victualling the Norwich Frigate there at Kinſale, ſo as when his proviſions fail he muſt return to that place to revictual.

The news Letters come by this laſt paquet are here incloſed, which will furniſh you with all the intelligence I know, ſo ſoon as you can put things in ſuch a poſture as you may ſafely leave them, I ſhall be glad of your company here, and in the time,

I remain,

Your moſt affectionate, and
moſt faithful ſervant,

ESSEX.

To

To Mr. Harbord.

Mr. Harbord, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 23, 1674-5.

I Have received yours of the 9th of January, wherein you mention a good deal relating to mr. ſecretary Coventry, and that he ſeems ill pleaſed concerning a letter of my lord of Carlingford's. You may at all times aſſure mr. ſecretary Coventry of the real value I have for him, and the care I ſhall ever take to pay him not only all due reſpect, but all the kind ſervices that can lye in my power; for indeed I do know, and from my heart believe him to be one of the moſt eſteemable men of this age, but upon this occaſion I muſt remind you of a paſſage, which I am ſure you cannot forget, that happened between my lord of Arlington and me: it was concerning the preparing of books for the diſcovery of concealed lands in Ireland, and you cannot but call to mind how ill his lordſhip took it, that ſuch a work had been ſo long in hand, and he knew nothing thereof, and yet when he ſaw what orders I had received and in what manner I was directed to proceed, his lordſhip reſted fully ſatisfied with what I had done. You that have experience of this may eaſily imagine that ſomething of the like nature may come again, and therefore it ſhould be your part as much as may be, ever to confirm a good underſtanding between mr. ſecretary Coventry and myſelf, and that when any thing of this ſort happens he may be aſſured that it proceeds from ſome other cauſe, and not from any either unkindneſs or inaſſurance I have of his friendſhip, I muſt and will obey punctually the orders I have received from the King my maſter, and this I ſhall preciſely do without regarding whom it pleaſeth or diſpleaſeth, and if orders ſhould happen to be ſuch as I cannot perform, I muſt reſign.

As

As for my lord treaſurer and my lord Ranelagh, it is neceſſary for ſeveral reaſons that I keep fair with them, and therefore I would by no means have you give them the leaſt occaſion of jealouſy, that which mr. Cook tells you that his Majeſty will have the treaſurer acquainted with all things relating lands and monies in Ireland, but will have no ſuch clauſe put in letters, I can give you an inſtance of the contrary which you may let mr. ſecretary Coventry know as from yourſelf. The letter was in behalf of colonel Willoughby and his wife, and is entered at the ſignet's office the 12th of November. Much more I could ſay to you upon this ſubject if you were preſent, but this letter will ſuffice, which you will be ſure to keep ſecret, and guide yourſelf by it.

I have received a letter from your father concerning Eſſex-houſe which I ſhall anſwer by the next; let mr. Thinne know that I have two of his, but have not time by this poſt to write. I do much want a liſt of fees taken in all his Majeſty's courts of England, which long ago I directed you to ſend me; pray let it be haſtened over.

By this packet I have writ to mr. ſecretary Coventry upon the ſubject of renewing charters to corporations, pray mind him to give an anſwer ſo ſoon as conveniently may be, for till I know his Majeſty's pleaſure, that buſineſs is at a ſtand.

I am,

Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To

To Mr. Secretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 23, 1674-5.

HIS Majeſty by his letter of the 16th of Auguſt 1671, having impowered the chief governor here to renew the charters of the ſeveral corporations of this kingdom, and to grant unto them ſuch of the privileges formerly belonging to them, as ſhould be thought fit. And the lords of his Majeſty's moſt honourable privy council in England by their letter of the 26th of September 1673, having ſignified to me his Majeſty's pleaſure, that all reſtraints againſt the renewing of charters be taken off, and that I ſhould proceed therein according to the ſeveral former directions given from thence; I have ſince applied myſelf towards the diſpatch of that affair, and have given notice to ſome of the chief corporations, that they ſhould employ agents here to ſollicit the taking out of their charters, and that of Cork is at preſent under conſideration, and finding that by a letter from his Majeſty's privy council in England bearing date the 17th of Auguſt 1670, [a copy whereof I herewith ſend you] ſome rules and directions were recommended to the lord lieutenant and council, to be obſerved in the granting of ſuch new charters, I thought it fit altho' that letter was directed only to the lord Berkley, then lord lieutenant, and not to the lieutenant for the time being, to conform my ſelf to his Majeſty's pleaſure thereby ſignified, unleſs his Majeſty ſhould diſpenſe with any of the rules thereby preſcribed. The only difficulties that I meet with, do relate to two of the directions therein mentioned, whereof one is, that a ſurrender ſhould be required of their former charters, without which, a new charter will not abrogate an old privilege, and the other is, that if any corporation claims the benefit of fines and

amerciaments among themſelves, that this occaſion may be taken of extinguiſhing of ſuch claim and reſuming of that privilege, becauſe it leads to the obſtruction of juſtice.

As to the firſt I find the corporations generally very unwilling to ſurrender their old charters, many of them having divers antient charters from ſeveral of his Majeſty's royal predeceſſors, wherein there are large teſtimonies of their loyalties and good ſervices by them in former times performed to the crown, which they conceive to be much for their honour, and are therefore deſirous not to part with them, and do alſo apprehend that it may be ſome prejudice to them in the lands belonging to them, and an occaſion of many ſuits and differences concerning ſuch leaſes and grants as have been made, and debts contracted by them, if the preſent corporations ſhould be wholly diſſolved by the ſurrender of their old charters, alſo they fear all the by laws and other conſtitutions formerly made by them will become void, and therefore rather deſire, that if any privileges heretofore granted to them ſhall be found to be unreaſonable, and not fit to be continued, they may by a deed under their corporation ſeal to be enrolled in the chancery, ſurrender and releaſe ſuch privilege to his Majeſty, which it is ſuppoſed may be as available for the barring them from the enjoyments of ſuch privileges as if their former charters were ſurrendered; as to the other, concerning the grants of fines and amerciaments among themſelves, it is inſiſted on by ſome of them, and particularly by the city of Cork, who have that privilege that they have for many years enjoyed the ſame without complaint of any ill uſe made thereof to the obſtruction of juſtice, that there are not in Cork any lands belonging to the corporation, ſo that if that benefit be taken from them they ſhall

loſe

loſe all that ſmall income that is granted to them by their charter, and that being a town of the greateſt trade in this kingdom next to Dublin, it may poſſibly be reaſonable to grant ſome of thoſe privileges to that and ſome few other trading towns, which may be fit to be denied to others of leſs conſideration, whereof if his Majeſty ſhall be pleaſed to allow, it will be neceſſary he ſhould ſignify his pleaſure, that I may have the liberty either of allowing or diſallowing that privilege in ſuch caſes as the lord lieutenant and council here ſhall think fit, and as to both theſe rules directed to be obſerved I find that neither of them were taken notice of in the new charter which hath been lately granted to the town of Dundalk, under the great ſeal of England, which was paſſed there without any ſurrender of their former charter, and there is alſo therein contained an expreſs grant to them of all the liberties and privileges belonging to them in the year 1641, by force of any charters heretofore granted to them, and a particular proviſion for their enjoyment of all fines, iſſues and amerciaments happening within the court of the ſaid town. There is one thing more relating to this matter that may not be unfit to inform you of, which is, that by his Majeſty's letter of the 16th of Auguſt 1671, I am authorized to grant to the corporations all ſuch privileges as have been formerly granted to them, and the trade and condition of ſome of the towns here being now very much altered from what they were at the time of their granting their former charters, as particularly Belfaſt and ſome others; I have not any power to enlarge the privileges of any of them that I ſhall find to deſerve greater encouragement than they had by their former charters when there was a leſs trade in them, which may be reminded in caſe his Majeſty ſhall think fit to impower me to grant unto

unto ſuch corporations, whoſe trade hath conſiderably encreaſed ſince the paſſing of their former charters, ſuch new privileges the lord lieutenant and council here ſhall judge to be convenient for them, and to tend to the advancement of the trade thereof. I deſire you to take an opportunity to acquaint his Majeſty with theſe ſeveral particulars, and to let me know his pleaſure therein, which I ſhall be ſure punctually to obſerve; and ſhall then proceed to the renewing of the ſeveral charters, according to ſuch directions as I ſhall receive from his Majeſty, and thoſe other rules mentioned in the letter of the lords of the council here incloſed. I am,

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

I have received yours of the 12th inſtant, and concerning the report in the caſe between Mr. Barrett and my lord Loftus, I compleated it and ſigned it at leaſt five months ago; but Mr. Barrett, when he left this country, did not think fit to take it with him, ſo as it lay by me till within this three weeks, at which time an agent from Mr. Barrett called for it, and to him it is delivered.

To the Earl of Orrery.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 28, 1674-5.

THE charter of Cork being now under conſideration here, in order to the renewing thereof, I believe we ſhall continue all thoſe men freemen of the ſaid city who now are ſo; but it being poſſible that ſome of the gentlemen of the neighbourhood, who at preſent have not freedom in that city, may with reaſon

reaſon be proper to be named freemen in the new charter, if your lordſhip, or my lord Shannon, to whom I deſire you to communicate this letter, will be pleaſed to nominate perſons you think fit: myſelf, I preſume, and council, will not ſcruple at inſerting their names; wherefore I deſire I may hear from your lordſhip upon this ſubject ſo ſoon as conveniently you can, only I wiſh they may not be too many, but gentlemen of good fortunes and credit in the country. I am,

Your lordſhip's moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Orlando Gee.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 30, 1674-5.

I Have ſome time ſince received yours of the 2d of January, and having an opportunity by captain Crofts going over, I would not omit the writing to you, and ſending as I have here encloſed a copy of a cypher, whereby you may at all times communicate your thoughts to me. In the end of your letter you tell me 'tis the opinion that I had beſt keep the leaſes which are by me unſealed, for a reaſon not convenient to mention: I deſire by the help of this cypher you will let me know it, as alſo that I may now and then underſtand your proceedings with the duke of Monmouth. I ſhall likewiſe return you my opinion in the ſame manner, as there ſhall be occaſion. I am continually in want of gentlemen to attend me, thoſe whom I brought over are many of them provided for, and this country is pretty ſcarce of men of that ſort; wherefore I would be glad you would from time to time find me out ſome: For

their

their qualifications, I would have them born gentlemen, good ſightly men, and free from debauchery, and ſuch as have ſomething of their own to maintain them, tho' it be but forty or fifty pounds per annum. The terms they are to be upon are theſe, they have lodging and diet in the Caſtle for themſelves and their men; they ride in the life-guard, and have a pay there of between 30 and 40 l. a year, which pay will keep their horſes well; ſo as if they have a little of their own to go handſomely in cloths, 'twill be enough. If I find them men of ſenſe, and fit for buſineſs, I ſhall prefer them before any others, as places do fall. Indeed, I would be glad you would enquire me out a man or two that are of good underſtanding, for many times I have occaſion to employ them: pray, as you hear of any that may be fit for me, let me know it, and I will ſend for them ſtill as I want. I am,

Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To Sir Joſeph Williamſon.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 30, 1674-5.

ABOUT a fortnight ago I received a letter of his Majeſty's, counterſigned by yourſelf, in the behalf of Mr. Richard Talbott, directing a grant to him of an incumbrance out of his eſtate. I have enquired into the matter, and do find it to be a mortgage, which mortgage (as the letter recites) is by the Act of Settlement granted to the 49 officers. Now, by a former letter, in the name of colonel Cary Dillon, his Majeſty has been pleaſed to order that there ſhall be a liberty and preference given to him to place deficiencies upon the whole 49 ſecurity; and

and ſhould this gentleman come in, and make his diſcovery, colonel Dillon, upon the right of preference, would carry the thing. I have therefore thought fit to keep this letter in Mr. Talbott's behalf private, till I have a further ſignification of his Majeſty's pleaſure; and indeed I muſt needs ſay this, that if his Majeſty do grant theſe things for the advantage of private men, who may buy deficiencies at a lower rate, and apply them, it is much more natural that thoſe on whoſe land the incumbrances are, as the caſe of Mr. Talbott is, ſhould partake of his Majeſty's favours, rather than others who are ſtrangers to the eſtates. You will be pleaſed to take ſome time to acquaint his Majeſty with this, and according to ſuch orders as ſhall come, I ſhall conform myſelf.

I am, your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

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To the Lord Ranelagh.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 30, 1674-5.

SINCE I wrote to your lordſhip I have three of yours to acknowledge of the 12th, 16th, and and another of the 23d, by the latter of which you give me an account of ſeveral paſſages relating to this country, and among others, that there are ſome objections made againſt regimenting the army here; and that it is propoſed that the eldeſt captains ſhould command as field-officers. I confeſs, I am utterly to ſeek what theſe objections ſhould be; and as for the propoſal of the eldeſt captain to command, it will be very often found inconvenient, ſeveral of them probably not being ſo fit for it; but I ſhall ſuſpend any thing to be ſaid upon this ſubject, till Mr. Harbord,

Harbord, who I underſtand is coming over, ſhall acquaint you with theſe objections. I am extreamly ſatisfied with what you tell me concerning the management of the revenue, and the diſpoſition of lands here, and not leſs with that which concludes your letter, an account of my lord treaſurer's kindneſs to me, a confirmation of which I do indeed receive from all hands. I did on the 22d of December laſt, which is now almoſt five weeks ago, ſend to my lord treaſurer the commiſſioners of Cork-Houſe their accounts of the farm, upon oath: theſe papers being of ſome importance, I wiſh I could know whether they be received or no, not having as yet heard one word of it. Mr. Jones did laſt night deliver your letter concerning Athlone, which, as ſoon as I have peruſed, I ſhall take ſome order in it. I am,

Your lordſhip's moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

Since I writ this letter, I am informed that the provoſt of the college is fallen deſperately ill of a dead Palſey. I deſire your lordſhip to be watchful to prevent dean Sherridan's deſigns, who no doubt will have notice of this man's illneſs; and if you have an opportunity to do Mr. dean Ward a kindneſs upon this occaſion, I ſhould be glad of it.

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To Mr. ſecretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 30, 1674-5.

SINCE my laſt, which was upon the ſubject of corporations, I have received yours of the 19th, wherein among other things you acquaint me his Majeſty's pleaſure concerning captain Crofts, that he may have permiſſion to come over into England,

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he being one of that party quartered near Carrickfergus, commanded by Sir Arthur Forbeſe. I have been a little ſtrict in keeping them upon the place, but knowing ſome buſineſs of importance called him into England, I had given him a licence before the receipt of your letter.

As to the affair of the town of Galway betwixt it and Mr. Hamilton, they are now proceeding in chancery; and, I am very ſure, Mrs. Hamilton can have no advantage in that court. When this grant was firſt in paſſing, I obſtructed it as much as was fit for me; but after his Majeſty had ſignified his pleaſure in the caſe, I have ſupported it to the utmoſt, as far as was proper for me in my ſtation; but it would be hard to interpoſe his Majeſty's power in the deciſion of law cauſes. Having this occaſion, I cannot but tell you, that I do apprehend this grant will be the ruin of that town. It was once a conſiderable place of trade, and one of the principal ſtrengths of the kingdom: it furniſhed all the province of Conaught (it being the only frequented port there) with foreign commodities; but now I hear the merchants are all leaving the place, and the gentlemen of that county are forced to ſend as far as this city for thoſe things whereof they uſed to be provided from thence. There is a letter in behalf of the earl of Kildare, which will be brought to you for his Majeſty's ſignature; 'tis for the grant of a ſmall parcel of land that Sir Maurice Euſtace was like to have defrauded him of, and that uſed very ungentleman like practices to compaſs his ends The land does not exceed 50 l. per annum above the rent now payable, and a leaſe happening to be taken in a forfeiting perſon's name, it falls into the King's diſpoſal: but the letter does ſo fully ſet forth the caſe, as I ſhall ſay no more, ſave only, that it hath been

drawn

drawn with care, and I conceive is very reaſonable for his Majeſty to allow. I am,

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Thinne.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 30th, 1674-5.

SINCE my laſt writing to you, ſeveral letters of yours, as thoſe of the 9th, 12th, and 16th inſtant, have come to any hands, which happening to arrive when I was full of other buſineſs, I had not leiſure to ſend you my anſwer. I give you thanks for the divers intelligencies you ſend me, and deſire you will continue your correſpendence. That which your laſt ſpeaks of the preſent report concerning the earl of Shaftſbury, I do agree with you in opinion, that it cannot have any good foundation. I am

Your moſt affectionate ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Sir Henry Capel.

Dear Brother, Dublin Caſtle, Jan. 30, 1674-5.

BElieving Mr. Harbord will certainly be upon the road for Ireland before this letter can arrive, I muſt hold my correſpondence with you for ſuch matters as I would have communicated to him; and therefore I have herewith incloſed a letter written to him concerning Eſſex Houſe: 'tis moſt of it in cypher, which your key will unfold; as alſo one other to Sir Charles Harbord, which I deſire you to deliver.

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The city here is at preſent in a good deal of diſorder, the aldermen and commons almoſt perpetually jarring and differing. At my firſt coming over they were in great confuſion, and ſeveral mutinies had been here; and in one of them concerning the building a bridge, the tumult was ſo great, as Sir Arthur Forbeſe, then one of the lords juſtices, was forced to draw out ſome of the ſoldiers, and cauſe them to fire among them, before they would be quieted, wherein ſome men loſt their lives. Afterwards, by the vile practices of Sir Ellis Leighton to get himſelf into the recorder's place, and ſome other advantages of money, Sir John Totty then Mayor, joining with other ſeditious people of the commons, at once turned out eight aldermen and the recorder. The matter being extraordinary, and the manner of diſplacing thoſe men who were the wealthieſt and moſt ſubſtantial of the city, being very irregular and turbulent, they applied themſelves to the King in England, and his Majeſty, at my firſt coming over, ordered me to hear and determine it according to juſtice. This affair had a full hearing at large, and the proceeding of turning out theſe aldermen appearing not only contrary to all the practices and cuſtoms of this city, but alſo againſt the rules of common juſtice, it was declared void by the whole board, there being at leaſt 20 of the council preſent, not one diſſenting, and that the aldermen ſhould be replaced again; as alſo that all acts and proceedings relating to the turning out of theſe aldermen ſhould be erazed out of the city books. The firſt part was performed, and the aldermen put in poſſeſſion of their places again; but as for the latter, the city has neglected to do it hitherto, and the laſt week there being a quarter aſſembly, the matter was taken into conſideration: the mayor and aldermen unanimouſly agreed, and

ſent it to the commons; the commons by vote have refuſed obedience to our orders. I am conſidering what to do in the thing: ſure I am I will not ſuffer his Majeſty's authority to be ſlighted, but will ſee our orders obeyed, and theſe proceedings, by one means or other, razed out of their books. The reports which every day are tranſmitted hither from England of my remove, is the principal cauſe of their ſtubborneſs; and, indeed, it is a misfortune to his Majeſty's affairs, that ſuch rumours are ſpread; for I do not believe that under the ſun there are a people who are more apt to deſpiſe and affront their governors than ſome here are, and will, if they have any imagination that they are to be recalled: but I know not how this can be helped in ſuch a looſe age as this, where all men write and ſpeak what they pleaſe; however, doubtleſs it much weakens his Majeſty's authority. The reaſon that I have writ all this is to introduce another matter, wherein I deſire you to ask my lord keeper and Sir William Jones the attorney general their opinions: There is one Phillpot, a haberdaſher, who hath in my lord Berkley's time, and now ſince my coming, hath been the principal ringleader of theſe ſeditious people. This man, while the eight aldermen were turned out, was himſelf and one Greſſingham choſen into the place of two of the aldermen, which election was by the judgment of the board made void. Some time after the council had given this ſentence, this Phillpot, being maſter of one of the corporations of the city, and there being ſome cups which belonged to them to be new caſt, he, without orders of his corporation, directed a motto to be put upon them in theſe words, *Theſe Cups were made in the year when Phillpot and Greſſingham were Aldermen*; which cups are conſtantly uſed at all the feaſts of the city. Now, perhaps, tho' the thing

may

may ſeem but trivial in itſelf, yet I conceive 'tis of ſome conſequence to the government, that a kind of memorial ſhould be kept, and every year ſet before the faces of the people, contradicting an order of the lord lieutenant and council, who have adjudged theſe men not to be aldermen, and that their election was totally irregular and void, and that to the end there might be no memory of ſuch irregularities, all proceedings relating to it ſhould be razed out of the books.

I am very ſure the city will never be in any tolerable quiet till ſome few of the chief incendiaries do ſmart for it. Being loath in my own nature to make uſe of power for the chaſtiſement of ſuch exorbitancies, I have been watching to lay hold of ſome particular to fix upon any of them, which might bear an indictment in ſome of the King's courts; and, if I miſtake not, this will, upon the ſcore of ſedition; wherefore I deſire you to take ſome opportunity to ſpeak with theſe two perſons before mentioned, ſo ſoon as conveniently you can, and let me know their opinions. I would not have it diſcourſed of abroad, but only to aſk them privately, and let me underſtand their ſenſe. The violencies of ſome of theſe little fellows have been inſufferable; and what courſe ſoever I ſhall think fit to take with them, I would be glad to be ſatisfied with the judgment of thoſe two great men, I mean my lord keeper and Mr. attorney, being loath to begin with any of them in a point which will not certainly hold. Pray, tell my lord keeper that I have his letter concerning the eſcheators.

I am your moſt affectionate brother,

ESSEX.

To the Duke of Ormond.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Feb. 2, 1674-5.

THE provoſt of the college here dying laſt night, upon enquiry what is directed by ſtatutes of the college for the nominating of another, I do find, that the vice provoſt do ſignify the vacancy to the chancellor, and that the chancellor do acquaint his Majeſty therewith, who has reſerved the nomination to himſelf. Conceiving the matter to be of ſome conſequence to this kingdom, that a fit and prudent man be intruſted in this employment, and knowing that a perſon (who, as all the biſhops and others here, tell me is a moſt unfit man for it) ſtays in England on purpoſe to get this preferment, I have by this pacquet ſent to recommend Mr. dean Ward, whom I look upon as the diſcreeteſt and propereſt man in this kingdom to be provoſt, and whom I underſtand that your Grace has the like good opinion of. My letter is gone to Mr. ſecretary Coventry, well knowing how entirely he is your Grace's ſervant; and I have likewiſe given him a hint of the forms that are to paſs through you, that he may ſo manage the affair, as to prevent any perſon from being impoſed upon us, and may introduce this gentleman to ſucceed, ſo ſoon as your Grace's letter ſhall come over. Thus much I thought fit to acquaint your Grace with, both in regard of the ſtation you are in, as chancellor, and alſo to aſſure you, that I ſhall never be wanting in paying your Grace all due reſpect and eſteem, as being

Your Grace's moſt faithful,
and moſt humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To

To Sir Henry Capel.

Dear Brother, Dublin Caſtle, Feb. 3, 1674-5.

I Have received yours of the 27th of January, all in cyphers. I deſire you to give my lord of Arlington all the kind thanks imaginable from me, for the notices he ſends by it, and intreat him he will make uſe of your hand to convey things of this nature to me, which I ſhall conſtantly keep with perfect ſecrecy; but as for the matter itſelf the new letting of the farm, I do know that there is a treaty on foot concerning it, and letters do paſs between my lord treaſurer and myſelf upon that ſubject, and for aught I can find, he is very fair towards me in the thing, and will not, I believe, conclude without firſt acquainting me therewith; wherefore I conceive it beſt to let that matter alone. I am,

Your moſt affectionate brother,

ESSEX.

To Mr. ſecretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, Feb. 3, 1674-5.

THE city of Dublin hath never ſince my coming, nor of a long time before, been very eaſy or quiet; the commons perpetually jarring and mutinying againſt the mayor and aldermen. I will not repeat to you what was done before my time, upon projects of Sir Ellis Leighton, in ſupporting the commons againſt their ſuperiors; but ſure I am, that his practices in countenancing that inferior ſort of people, have made them obſtinate and wilful ever ſince; nor need I tell you how upon his Majeſty's

letter of reference to myſelf and council, we adjudged the turning out the eight aldermen and recorder, to be (as indeed it was) both contrary to the cuſtom of this city, and even to the rules of common juſtice; for with theſe tranſactions I ſuppoſe you long ago are acquainted. There was a clauſe in requiring the city to blot out of their books thoſe irregular proceedings of theirs relating to the eight aldermen and recorder; this hath reſted among them ever ſince, and by reaſon of ſome unſettledneſs in the aſſembly, and ſome little differences and diſputes among themſelves, I omitted the preſſing of the execution of that part of the order till now, this laſt week, it being propoſed among them, the mayor and aldermen unanimouſly conſented, but the commons refuſed. The matter in itſelf is of no great moment, but I conceive it of much conſequence that his Majeſty's commands ſhould be obeyed; and it will be a precedent very dangerous to the government here, that they ſhall have an order of the lieutenant and council entered upon their books, requiring them to raze out ſome matters in their acts of aſſembly, and that theſe very things in after times ſhall appear unrazed, which may give a ground in future ages both to this and other cities and corporations to diſpute the rendering obedience to his Majeſty's authority; for which reaſon I am reſolved to have the thing done one way or other, and if I can find any legal courſe that will reach ſome of theſe ſeditious people, I will certainly make them ſmart for it. Thus much I thought neceſſary to acquaint you with, that you might know how things move here, leſt any flying reports ſhould bring miſrepreſentations upon our actings. The provoſt of this college being lately dead, I have conſulted ſome of his Majeſty's council to inform myſelf in whoſe diſpoſition the gift thereof is, who

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are of opinion that it is in me, for the ſtatutes of the college, of which I have ſent you a copy, directing, that the chancellor ſhould give notice to the King of the vacancy, to the end that the college ſhould be provided with a new one; and his Majeſty having granted to me, by my patent, the diſpoſal of all places civil and eccleſiaſtical, which are in his gift, except ſome therein particularly mentioned, this not being excepted, muſt of conſequence remain in my diſpoſal, and indeed I conceive the thing is very clear; yet, however, having enquired into the practice of former times, I do find that in my lord Strafford's time it was granted by his Majeſty's letter, but in my lord of Ormond's time, in the year 1643 or 44, his lordſhip then lieutenant, did grant it from himſelf without any letter, and ſince his Majeſty's reſtoration, the gentleman who laſt had it, received it from his Majeſty's letter; but that letter was ſent when there was no governor, viz. in the year 1660; for from the end of May till Chriſtmas following, when the lords juſtices commiſſion was firſt paſſed, there could be no other way of making theſe grants: ſo as there is both my patent, and likewiſe the precedent of my lord of Ormond, to confirm my right. I have pitched upon Mr. dean Ward, who is every way a man fitly qualified for the employment, and have herewith ſent you a letter for his Majeſty's ſignature, in caſe his Majeſty will have it paſs that way, but if it go the other, a line from yourſelf will be ſufficient. I am, I confeſs, very fearful of having a perſon put in who is not of abilities and parts ſuitable to the truſt, it being the only college for the education of the youth of the kingdom; and I do aſſure you this doctor Ward hath the votes of the biſhops, and all other people here, as abſolutely the propereſt man

for the provoſtſhip; wherefore I deſire the utmoſt of your aſſiſtance, whereby you will not only oblige this gentleman, but the whole kingdom, and very particularly

Your moſt faithful and moſt humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Feb. 3, 1674-5.

SOME time ſince I deſired my lord Conway to write to your lordſhip concerning the provoſtſhip of the college here, and to intreat your lordſhip's favour and aſſiſtance in recommending Mr dean Ward to it: the provoſt is lately dead, and, upon viewing my patent, I conceive that thing is clearly in my gift, but I do find that the practice hath been both ways; my lord of Ormond, when lieutenant, did diſpoſe of it as from himſelf, but my lord of Strafford did it by letter from his Majeſty: wherefore I have ſent a draft of a letter to Mr. ſecretary Coventry, but however acquainting him with my right, and with the precedent I have for it; being loath, ſince it has been a received opinion that the gift was in the King, abſolutely to diſpoſe thereof till I had made it known to his Majeſty. Mr. dean Ward is a man, that I dare be anſwerable for, to be the fitteſt in the whole kingdom for the employment; and therefore if any endeavours ſhould be uſed to introduce another, I deſire your aſſiſtance in Dr. Ward's behalf. I have conſidered of Mr. Proger's petition, which your lordſhip ſent over with your letter dated the 20th of January, and do find that Sir Ellis Leighton hath paſſed a patent for a leaſe of thoſe lands

and

and rectories therein mentioned; but theſe formerly belonging to the church, the acts of ſettlement have veſted them again in the church, and whenever they ſhall be queſtioned, I am confident Sir Ellis Leighton's grant will be overthrown. The like failure muſt of conſequence be found in the grant of the inheritance of them; ſo as I fear it will be of no advantage to Mr. Progers if he ſhould have ſuch a patent. Mr. Progers is a gentleman I have long known, and a perſon for whom I ſhould be glad to have an opportunity put into my hands to do him any ſervice: and indeed, the beſt I can now perform upon this ſubject, is truly to report to your lordſhip the ſtate of his cauſe; and whenever any better occaſion ſhall happen, I ſhall moſt willingly and faithfully do him the part of a friend.

Within one week I hope to give your lordſhip ſome account concerning the farmers books, and in the mean time I remain with perfect truth,

Your lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,
ESSEX.

To the Lord Ranelagh.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Feb. 3, 1674-5.

THE provoſt of the college is now newly dead, and therefore your lordſhip's good word to his Majeſty, if there be an occaſion, will be very ſeaſonable on Mr. dean Ward's behalf; but I hope there will be no need of any ſolicitation, in regard that upon conſideration I find the gift thereof to be in my patent: however, I have writ to Mr. ſecretary Coventry in this matter, and if his Majeſty will have

have it paſs by way of his letter, I doubt not of your lordſhip's aſſiſtance in prevailing with the King that Dr. Ward, whom I have recommended, ſhould be the man. Having nothing further to trouble you with at preſent, I remain,

Your lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Sir Arthur Forbeſe.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, Feb. 9, 1674-5.

I HAVE received your two letters dated the 3d of February. As for the aſſignments of the money, the commiſſioners have not dealt well with me, in not having ſent them before: having had both thoſe of the treaſury and of Cork-houſe with me this morning, I have adjuſted the matter ſo as you will not fail of an account by this poſt that the money will be ſpeedily and certainly paid.

My lord juſtice is enquiring after Steele, whom you mention, concerning counterfeiting of money; there is alſo one William Barrett, living now in Belfaſt, a goldſmith by trade, who came four or five years ſince from Newcaſtle, and has been ſhrewdly ſuſpected of coining, I deſire you would inform yourſelf thereof. You may do well to have an account where Wall and Montgomery do uſually reſide, but for the preſent, I think it not convenient to have them apprehended; tho' I would be glad to know when we may find them, for ſome reaſons which I ſhall diſcourſe with you when you come up hither.

I

I have herewith encloſed a letter from my lord Maſſereen to Mr. Beecher, and if any orders be convenient for ſoldiers, you may give directions therein.

I am, your moſt faithful
and affectionate ſervant,

ESSEX.

Since I writ this, the aſſignments were brought to me, which are herewith tranſmitted.

To Lord Fitzharding.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Feb. 6, 1674-5.

SOME time ago I received a letter from your lordſhip, together with a petition concerning your quit-rents, upon which I directed Mr. Godolphin to ſpeak to your agent to what was expected on my part therein, who tells me, that till ſome proceedings have been in his Majeſty's courts here, they have nothing to deſire from me. The matter, I muſt confeſs, by ſo much as I can underſtand of it, ſeems a little perplexed; but as ſoon as application ſhall be made, your lordſhip may aſſure yourſelf of my friendſhip and readineſs to ſerve you, upon this or any other occaſion.

Our news from England gives us an account, that the parliament is like to ſit; if ſo, I fear it will hinder your lordſhip's coming into the country, which, whenever your affairs will permit, your company will be moſt welcome to,

Your lordſhip's moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To

To the Earl of Angleſey.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Feb. 6, 1674-5.

YOUR lordſhip's of the 29th December, came to my hands about ten days ſince, wherein, among other things, you mention the troubleſome condition which the baronies of Bear and Bantry in the county of Cork are in. Since my coming, I have obſerved that almoſt all thoſe mountainous rocky parts are ſubject to theſe diſorders in the winter ſeaſon, but in the ſummer we eaſily find means to quiet the people; and I do intend this next ſpring to ſend ſome men into thoſe quarters your lordſhip ſpeaks of. Your brother alſo was with me, and delivered a letter of my lord of Arlington's in his behalf, for a troop of horſe. Thoſe employments fall but ſeldom, there having not been one in my diſpoſal ſince my coming; and indeed, I am never without letters of his Majeſty's for ſeveral perſons, requiring the giving of thoſe commands, ſo as I cannot poſitively reſolve what to do upon this occaſion. I am,

Your lordſhip's moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Secretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, Feb. 6, 1674-5.

THIS letter ſerves only to convey the incloſed to you in behalf of the earl of Kildare, which I mentioned in mine of the 30th of January; the matter ſeems very reaſonable, which makes me recommend it to his Majeſty's ſignature. I am,

Your moſt faithful ſervant,

ESSEX.

RIGHT

RIGHT truſty, &c. We greet you well. Whereas Our right truſty and right well beloved couſin, John earl of Kildare, hath by his guardian Elizabeth, counteſs dowager of Clare, humbly petitioned, ſetting forth that Wentworth, late earl of Kildare, father of him the ſaid John, on or about the firſt day of February in the 10th year of Our reign, by indenture under his the ſaid Wentworth's hand and ſeal, for and in conſideration of the ſum of ten pounds, ſterl. paid unto him the ſaid earl by one George Fitzgerald, then of Lady-town, and formerly of Chriſtian's-town in the county of Kildare, in that Our kingdom, gentleman, and towards the reparation of the ſaid George, in that he did not enjoy ſome other lands that had been leaſed to him by the ſaid earl, did demiſe, grant, and to farm let unto ſir Maurice Euſtace, knight, (afterward lord chancellor of Ireland) the town and lands of Walters-town in the county of Kildare, with the hamlets and land thereunto belonging; the town and lands of Doveeny and Ballygrenan in the ſaid county, with the hamlets thereunto belonging, and the village, hamlets, and lands of Feanens in the ſaid county, to have and to hold the ſaid towns and lands with their and every of their rights, members and appurtenances, for the term of fifty one years after the leaſe then in being of the premiſſes reſpectively ended, yielding and paying unto the ſaid Wentworth, his heirs and aſſigns, the ſeveral rents and reſervations in the ſaid indenture mentioned and expreſſed; and that in the ſaid indenture, the name of the ſaid ſir Maurice Euſtace, knight, was made uſe of in truſt, and for the benefit and advantage of the ſaid George Fitzgerald, and likewiſe ſetting forth that the ſaid George Fitzgerald at the time of the ſaid leaſe made,

was

was a perſon indicted and outlawed in that Our kingdom of Ireland for high treaſon, upon account of the late rebellion or war, which began in that Our kingdom the 23d of October 1641, whereby the ſaid truſt, and all the right, title, and intereſt of him the ſaid George Fitzgerald to the ſaid lands became forfeited to Us, and are diſpoſable by Us unto the uſes of the acts of ſettlement and explanation enacted in that Our kingdom, by which acts, or one of them, the truſt of the ſaid term of years is appointed part of the ſecurity deſigned for the ſatisfaction of the commiſſioned officers, who ſerved Us and Our royal father in Our wars of Ireland, before the 5th day of June 1649. And upon the whole matter beſought Us, that We would be graciouſly pleaſed to grant unto him the ſaid John the benefits and advantages of the ſaid truſt, and all our right, title, and intereſt in law or equity, in or to the ſaid lands during the remainder of the ſaid term of years, to the end the ſame be not longer an incumbrance on the lands of him the ſaid John, all which We taking into Our princely conſideration, and the many good and faithful ſervices performed to Us and Our royal predeceſſors Kings and Queens of England, by the anceſtors of the ſaid John earl of Kildare, and to the end the ſaid John earl of Kildare may be encouraged to follow the example of his anceſtors in their loyalty and fidelity to the crown, and likewiſe taking into Our conſideration one proviſoe or clauſe in the 86th page of the act of ſettlement of that Our kingdom of Ireland, whereby it is enacted, that it ſhall and may be lawful for the lord lieutenant, or the chief governor of that Our kingdom for the time being, by any deed under his or their hands and ſeals, to grant the reſt and reſidue of all leaſes not exceeding three lives, or 31 years from the 23d of October 1641, to be reckoned

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and accounted, which by the ſaid act are veſted in Us, to ſuch innocent perſon or perſons to whom the rent and reverſion upon ſuch leaſes do appertain, whereby it is manifeſt, that the intention of the ſaid act was to gratify innocent and loyal perſons, by granting unto them forfeited incumbrances of this nature on their own eſtates, and altho' the leaſe before mentioned be not within the record or letter of the ſaid proviſoe, we do nevertheleſs think fit as a mark of Our favour to the ſaid John earl of Kildare, and in diſcharge of the truſt repoſed in Us by the acts of ſettlement and explanation enacted in that Our kingdom, to grant Our right and intereſt therein unto him the ſaid John earl of Kildare, and We do therefore will and require you that in caſe it ſhall appear to you that the ſaid George Fitzgerald is outlawed of high treaſon as aforeſaid, you cauſe a commiſſion to iſſue out under Our great ſeal of that Our ſaid kingdom, unto ſome of our juſtices of peace of the county of Kildare, impowering and requiring them to enquire of the ſaid, and whether the ſame was taken in the name of the ſaid ſir Maurice Euſtace in truſt for the ſaid George Fitzgerald as aforeſaid, and to value, and true eſtimate make of the real value of the ſaid intereſt for term of years granted unto the ſaid ſir Maurice Euſtace by the ſaid Wentworth as aforeſaid, and what the ſame is yearly worth in caſe of purchaſe between party and party, and return therefore to make into the ſaid court of Chancery, which being done it is likewiſe Our will and pleaſure, that without ſtaying for any further or other warrant, you do by advice of ſome of our council learned in the laws of that Our kingdom, cauſe effectually letters patents under the great ſeal of that Our kingdom, to be made and paſſed unto the ſaid John earl of Kildare, containing a grant

unto

unto him the ſaid John earl of Kildare, or to ſuch perſon or perſons as ſhall be nominated in his behalf of the ſaid intereſt and term of years in the ſeveral premiſſes before mentioned, and of all Our rights, titles, truſt, and intereſt in law or equity in the ſaid ſeveral lands, or any part or parcel of them by virtue of the ſaid indenture of demiſe, and the attainder of the ſaid George as aforeſaid, or by any other means or ways whatſoever, to be held during the remainder of the ſaid term under the quit rent payable thereof to Us by the ſaid acts of ſettlement and explanation; he the ſaid earl of Kildare, and his heirs, firſt delivering to Our chancellor of that our kingdom, to be by him cancelled, ſo many debentures of arrears due for ſervices before the 5th of June 1649, and yet unſatisfied, is according to the valuation to be returned as aforeſaid, will anſwer five years purchaſe for the ſaid leaſe; all which ſaid debentures are to be allowed and ſatisfied at the rate of twelve ſhillings and ſix pence per pound, in which care is likewiſe to be had, that ſo much of the ſaid twelve ſhillings and ſix pence per pound as hath been already ſatisfied in land, houſes, or money, by Our late commiſſioners for execution of the ſaid act, be not again placed to account by the ſaid John earl of Kildare, or his heirs; but that your ſaid five years purchaſe be made up and compleated out of the remaining part of the ſaid twelve ſhillings and ſix pence per pound that is yet unſatisfied, and in the ſaid letters patents you are to cauſe to be inſerted all ſuch beneficial clauſes as may render Our ſaid grant good and effectual in law, unto him the ſaid John and aſſigns, and for ſo doing, this ſhall be to you Our lord lieutenant of that Our kingdom, and all other Our chief governor or governors thereof for the time being, a ſufficient warrant and authority,

thority, notwithſtanding Our ſeveral letters under Our privy ſignet and ſign manual, unto you or any other Our chief governor of that Our kingdom, directed. Dated the 21ſt of September, or 2d of March 1673, or the 8th of June 1674, in the behalf of colonel Cary Dillon, whereby the liberty and preference of placing 49 arrears on ſuch incumbrances is given to the ſaid Cary Dillon, and notwithſtanding any other former order or direction in the behalf of any other perſon whatſoever. Given, &c.

To the Earl of Orrery.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Feb. 9, 1674-5.

YOUR lordſhip's letter of the 2d of February, gives me an account concerning Owen Carty, a principal tory in your parts of the country. I perceive by his petition that he is willing to come in, but by the ſeveral circumſtances which your letter recites, he appears to be guilty of murder, ſo as I am a little in doubt what to do in relation to him, having never yet pardoned any for that crime, yet however, if he doth bring in thoſe other perſons, who together with him were in this fact, and it ſhall be found that ſome of them, and not himſelf did give the wound which killed this man, tho' he were in the company, ſince we cannot by other ways apprehend them, I ſhall be content to pardon Carty. I have ever made it my rule for dealing with thoſe looſe people, that until the ſervice be done, I do not grant a pardon, and therefore till Carty has performed, and that the people whom he accuſes be actually brought in, his pardon is not to paſs.

I am very glad your lordſhip has no need of the money, which the country was ſo willing to raiſe for the repair of the two caſtles you mention, I doubt not but the remitting of it will be an encouragement for them to do the like upon other occaſions.

You will by this receive orders for the return of the troops and company into their former quarters, which you may keep by you, and when you find there is no further need of them abroad, they may be recalled.

I have nothing further to add, but to give your lordſhip thanks for your care in this matter, and to aſſure you that, I am,

Your lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Secretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, Feb. 10, 1674-5.

I Have received yours of the 2d inſtant, together with the order of council relating to your lordſhip's money, his Majeſty's letter for the levying of the ſame, is alſo come to my hands, we ſhall ſpeedily proceed to the diſpatch of that buſineſs.

In mine of the 3d of February, I gave you ſome account of the diſorders that the city is in here, which the privy council, (being formerly petitioned by the mayor and aldermen) had agreed, but the commons had denied any compliance to our order for the razing out thoſe undue proceedings againſt the former recorder and late aldermen. I alſo hear that the aſſembly of the commons conſiſted of fifty eight, forty five whereof voted againſt the order, and only thirteen for it, ſo as

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it was evident, that the major part of the commons are infected with this diſorder. We iſſued out a further order, requiring poſitively their obedience, and in caſe they refuſed, that the names of thoſe perſons ſhould be returned who preſumed to vote againſt it, and upon reading this order, the commons violently broke open the doors and went out, and thus diſſolved the aſſembly. I do know that it is three or four men who act it all, and who ſpend their time wholly in ſeditious meetings, and inciting the people to this diſobedience; I fear, ſhould we not take ſome courſe with theſe ringleaders, the example of it would be very miſchievous to the government, and therefore I deſire you would be pleaſed to acquaint his Majeſty with the affair, and that I may have a ſignification of his pleaſure therein.

As for the matter itſelf, I preſume we ſhall order their books to be brought to us in council, and ſee them razed there, but the point I would be glad to have his Majeſty's directions in, is whether I ſhould not proceed to inflict ſome puniſhment upon thoſe men who are of ſuch unquiet ſpirits as to ſtir up the people to this ſedition; that his majeſty may ſee the reaſonableneſs of our order which is thus diſputed among them. I have herewith incloſed a copy thereof.

The parliament being in probability to meet, I deſire you will be pleaſed to know of the King, with whom he will have me place my proxy this next ſeſſions, the laſt ſitting it was with my lord of Ormond; not knowing whether he will be there or no, pray take ſome time to acquaint his Majeſty, that he may diſpoſe thereof as beſt pleaſeth him, and you may ſignify his commands therein. The provoſt of the college being lately dead, if your letter for the reſtitution of the fellows which I have recommended

to you be not diſpatched, I deſire it may be addreſſed ſo as before, with this addition, or to the provoſt for the time being, otherwiſe it will neceſſitate the renewal thereof.

I am, with perfect truth,
Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Feb. 10, 1674-5.

IN my laſt I gave you ſome account of mr. Progers buſineſs in anſwer to your letter, but forgeting then to return mr. Progers's petition, I herewith tranſmit it to your lordſhip. Since my coming into this employment, I have not met with any thing of much difficulty or uneaſineſs, except only the diſorders which I found this city in at my arrival, and indeed the ſecretary of that perſon who was here before me, did for ſome of his own private ends enflame a feud, that was beginning between the aldermen and commons to that degree, as I could never with all the induſtry and fair means I have uſed for theſe two years, bring them to any compoſure. There was a mutiny, in the time of my lord Berkley, about the building of a bridge, which came to that height, as ſir Arthur Forbeſe was forced to draw out the guards, and fire among and kill ſome men before he could make them quiet; and though I do not now ſee any ground to apprehend a tumult or ſedition like that; yet the ſtubborneſs of the commons at this preſent is ſuch, that unleſs, ſome courſe be taken with the principal incendiaries, I fear it cannot but end in miſchief. A little before my coming over, there were

were eight aldermen and the recorder moſt violently and irregularly thruſt out of their places; and his Majeſty was pleaſed by a letter to refer to me and the council the hearing and determination of that matter; we ſpent ſeveral days upon it, and having heard council at large on both ſides, we declared the proceedings, in turning out thoſe aldermen and the recorder, to be (as indeed they were) both contrary to the cuſtoms of the city, and the rules of common juſtice, and thereupon ordered the aldermen and recorder to be replaced; and to the end that no memory might remain of ſuch undue and illegal proceedings, we alſo ordered, that all entries relating to the expulſion of theſe men, ſhould be razed and blotted out of their books, as the copy of the order herewith incloſed, will more fully inform your lordſhip; the aldermen took their places again, but in regard of ſome unſettledneſs in their aſſembly, and ſome irregularities and inconſtancy in their meetings; this latter part of our order, concerning the raſure, was ſuffered to reſt till of late, but being ſome weeks ſince informed by the mayor, that our order was not compleatly executed, we ſent a ſecond order of council requiring their obedience, whereupon at an aſſembly called for that purpoſe, the mayor and aldermen unanimouſly agreed to comply, but the commons denied it, which being ſignified to us by the mayor, and ſheriffs, we ſent another order to them expreſly commanding their conformity, with direction to return the names of thoſe who ſhould vote againſt it; upon this an aſſembly being called, and the order read, moſt of the commons immediately forced open the doors, and in a tumultuary manner broke up the aſſembly; as for theſe entries upon the books, we can ſend for the books themſelves to the council, and cauſe thoſe parts directed in our order, to be

expunged there: it ſeems to me a thing inſufferable, to permit men to go away with acts of diſobedience, unpuniſhed, and therefore unleſs ſome ſeverity be uſed upon thoſe three or four perſons who incite the reſt to ſedition, his Majeſty's authority will, I fear, be much weakened, and this I ſhall be extreamly aſhamed to ſee in my time. Beſides in this caſe, 'tis conſiderable that Dublin being the capital city, other corporations will take example by them, and the pattern may run throughout the whole kingdom. But there being leiſure to conſult his Majeſty's pleaſure herein, I give your lordſhip the trouble of this large letter, and deſire you would be pleaſed to acquaint him with the ſubſtance thereof, and that I may have order, whether I ſhall only ſee theſe proceedings razed out of the books and do nothing further, or whether it may not be fit, that I likewiſe inflict ſome puniſhment upon theſe incendiaries, who ſtir up the people to ſedition.

There are ſeveral letters before me for the remittal of quit-rents, theſe being all upon the ſame foot with ſome others for ſuch like remittals, copies whereof I have already ſent your lordſhip, I do not acquaint you with the particulars, but intend to ſtop them all, till from your lordſhip I ſhall receive a ſignification of his Majeſty's pleaſure upon this ſubject.

I am, your lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Sir Henry Capel.

Dear. Brother, Dublin Caſtle, Feb. 10, 1674-5.

I Have received two of yours of the 30th of January, and the 2d of February, as alſo two of the ſame dates from mr. Harbord. The city here are in very ill temper, the commons perpetually jarring with the aldermen, and now diſputing the authority of the lieutenant and council. I have given mr. ſecretary Coventry an account of the thing, and I deſire you will mind him of it, that I may have a ſpeedy diſpatch of his Majeſty's orders to direct me what I am to do therein. It may be a little wondered at by ſtanders by, why I ſhould, upon ſuch an occaſion as this, ſend for orders out of England, and not myſelf with the council proceed with that vigour as is fit in ſuch like caſes; but I muſt tell you truly, that the experience I have had of the unſteadineſs of councils at Whitehall, and their perpetual contradicting even themſelves in their own orders, makes me walk warily. I know very well, that ſir Ellis Leighton by his letters, and colonel Talbot by his emiſſaries do incite the people to this ſtubborneſs; beſides I cannot but take notice that this is the only point upon which they can hope to ground a propoſal to the King for my remove, viz. of my being ungrateful to the city here, and for this reaſon I would be glad to fortify myſelf with his Majeſty's expreſs command, that my proceedings may thereby be juſtified. Theſe letters from ſir Ellis Leighton have been ſeen by ſome men here, who have told me thereof, tho' I could never get one of them: but for the agents of colonel Talbot, I know their actings very well, and their perpetual raiſing reports of my remove, thereby to encourage the people to their diſobedience; and I am very apt to

believe, let me do what I will, this city will not be reduced into a due compoſure: therefore for theſe conſiderations it imports me, as times now ſtand, to have his Majeſty's commands in a point of this nature, and not take the ill ſucceſs, which may follow what courſe ſoever I proceed in, upon myſelf.

I am told that lately his Majeſty ſent ſome meſſage, by ſir John Duncomb, to the city of London, and that an alderman there preſuming in the aſſembly to ſpeak ſomewhat diſobediently, the King immediately ſent orders to have his gown taken from him, and that this had been performed without more ado, had not an earneſt interceſſion of ſome friends prevailed with his Majeſty to paſs it by, this, if true, might be good precedent for us. I deſire you would enquire out the matter, and ſend me an account of the particulars thereof.

This letter you may communicate to mr. ſecretary Coventry, as being my moſt particular friend.

I am,
Your moſt affectionate brother.

ESSEX.

[Encloſed is a looſe paper.]

Finding that his Majeſty will have much of the buſineſs of Ireland, paſs through my lord treaſurer's hands. I have writ to his lordſhip to the ſame effect, as to mr. ſecretary Coventry, this is only to yourſelf, that you may likewiſe deſire my lord treaſurer, as well as mr. Secretary Coventry, to get ready diſpatch of this affair.

To the Lord Ranelagh.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Feb. 10, 1674-5.

THE city here is in a good deal of diſorder, and the commons are come to that height of diſobedience, as for my own part I cannot tell how they will ever be brought to their right wits again, unleſs ſome ſeverity be uſed towards their ringleaders: I have therefore writ to my lord treaſurer to acquaint his Majeſty with the affair, and I muſt deſire your lordſhip to be his remembrancer, that I may have orders ſo ſoon as may be from his Majeſty, to direct what I am to do therein. The ſubſtance of my letter to his lordſhip I will not repeat, preſuming that he will communicate it to you; but in theſe caſes too much delay and irreſolution hinder the good effect that may be hoped for from a proſecution of thoſe that are tumultuous; and therefore I deſire you to endeavour to get a ſpeedy ſignification of his Majeſty's pleaſure herein. Among the directions I ſent by your lordſhip, there was one concerning farthings; ſince you went there hath been a propoſal offered to me, which ſeems to be more reaſonable than that which we diſcourſed when your lordſhip was here, I have therefore incloſed it, to be conſidered on your ſide. I am,

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant and Council.

IT is humbly offered by the undertakers to furniſh this kingdom with copper farthings and halfpence of the ſame weight and fineneſs with thoſe in England, and by Midſummer next to import ſuch a quantity

quantity of copper blocks or chipps, as may poſſible with two preſſes be coined by the ſpring enſuing.

The undertakers do further promiſe to be at all the charges of coinage, both for inſtruments, materials, workmen, and others employed therein, as alſo to be at all the hazard by ſea, or otherwiſe, for bringing in ſuch a quantity of copper, and to give ſuch an impreſſion or ſtamp as his excellency and this honourable board ſhall think fit.

But whereas the copper blocks when brought from Sweden, will coſt within three pence halfpenny the pound weight of what they paſs for when coined, which is but little more than will pay the coinage and charges thereof; which his Majeſty taking into conſideration, ordered the ſum of 15000l. to pay for copper blocks to carry on the ſaid work in England, and theſe undertakers not inſiſting upon any advance-money, do, in lieu thereof, crave an allowance of four hundred pounds per annum ſalary for three years, towards the charge and intereſt of their diſburſements; and that the copper to be imported for this his Majeſty's ſervice, may be freed from the duties and cuſtoms of exciſe, as the ſame is alſo allowed in England.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Feb. 16, 1674-5.

WITH much ſatisfaction I have received the favour of your lordſhip's moſt obliged letter of the 28th January. I do well know that the many great affairs which are in your lordſhip's hands, cannot but hinder you from giving early diſpatch to thoſe of this country, which are of leſs moment; and therefore, now, whilſt my lord Ranelagh is in England,

England, your lordſhip may by him tell me your mind in matters relating to this kingdom: and having had ſo many inſtances to confirm the aſſurance of your lordſhip's kindneſs, I cannot but reſt ſatisfied that I am poſſeſſed of your lordſhip's favour, which is a thing I have ever been moſt ambitious of. From my lord Conway I underſtand, that your lordſhip has been pleaſed to move his Majeſty to grant me a ſum of money for the purchaſe of Eſſex-houſe, and that his Majeſty has conſented to it. Your lordſhip has therein laid a perpetual obligation upon me, the thing being not only valuable in itſelf, but of twice its worth to me, in regard of the convenience it will be to my family, and it gratifying my humour more than another matter of double the value. I have been acquainted with all his Majeſty's great miniſters ſince this happy reſtoration; ſome of them had perſonal obligations to have done me a kindneſs, but this I can ſay, that none of them, till your lordſhiy, have ever endeavoured to be inſtrumental in one of this ſort; and therefore your lordſhip may eaſily judge at what price I ſhall rate this your lordſhip's favour. The reports of my remove have ſounded pretty loudly here, but, I confeſs, I could never give the leaſt credit to it, being fully aſſured that his Majeſty would have ſignified his pleaſure to me, had it been ſo: yet, however, theſe diſcourſes have ill effect on the affairs of the kingdom, making the people, whilſt they expect a change, to grow reſty and ſtubborn againſt the commands of the preſent governor.

The propoſals which I make, have generally ſo good ſucceſs in England, that I cannot but attribute it to your lordſhip's kindneſs to me; and as I ſhall never offer any but ſuch as appear to me to be for the publick good, ſo I doubt not of the continuance of your lordſhip's

lordſhip's aſſiſtance in thoſe things which I ſhall adviſe.

I am clearly of opinion, that it were beſt a parliament did meet here before the farm of the revenue were abſolutely ſet; but your lordſhip knows the ſenſe his Majeſty hath, how inconvenient it may be to have one ſitting in England and another here at the ſame time; and a parliament here cannot well be called under five or ſix months preparation, in regard of the forms neceſſary thereunto: for the bills muſt be prepared and paſſed in council there, and remitted back hither, all which will require ſome ſpace of time; therefore if his Majeſty have thoughts of a parliament in this kingdom before the expiration of the preſent farm, we muſt prepare for it ſpeedily, or otherwiſe it cannot be convened in due time. I do heartily wiſh his Majeſty may find the good effects expected from the proclamation lately iſſued, and that the parliament in England may meet in good humour. I cannot conclude this letter without giving your lordſhip thanks for your kindneſs, not only to myſelf, but alſo to Mr. Harbord: it pleaſeth me much that he hath been of uſe to your lordſhip in the concerns; for as I do expect it from all who do relate to me, that they ſhould do your lordſhip all the ſervice within their power, ſo ſhall I wait every opportunity of evidencing the reality wherewith I am,

Your lordſhip's moſt humble
and moſt obedient ſervant,

ESSEX.

To

To the Lord Ranelagh.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Feb. 16, 1674-5.

BY a letter of yours to my lord Conway, I underſtand that his Majeſty hath been lately moved to beſtow on me a ſum of money for the purchaſe of Eſſex-houſe, and that he hath been graciouſly pleaſed to grant it; the truth is, there hath never any thing come in my way, that I had a great inclination to buy but this, and therefore I cannot but own the obligation I have to thoſe who put it into his Majeſty's thoughts to do me this favour; among whom, I look upon your lordſhip as one who had a ſhare, and do give you many thanks for your kindneſs to me on this occaſion. As to the manner of performing what his Majeſty has promiſed, my lord Conway will acquaint your lordſhip with my thoughts, ſo as I ſhall not need to repeat them. The letter concerning the council of the revenue I have peruſed, and I do not yet find any thing to be objected to it, ſave only that the clauſe in the firſt draft, excluding any from acting or voting in ſuch caſes, wherein themſelves are particularly concerned, is omitted; but by the next I ſhall have conſidered it more exactly, and ſhall then return your lordſhip my opinion therein.

I am your Lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To

To the Lord Ranelagh.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Feb. 20, 1674-5.

YOURS of the 13th inſtant I have received, which gives me an account, much to my ſatisfaction, of my lord treaſurer's friendlineſs to me in the occaſion of dean Ward. I deſire you would return his lordſhip my hearty thanks: I am ſure he hath not only done a favour to me, but a good to the whole kingdom in it. I have peruſed the two letters concerning the committee of council for the revenue; the deſign intended by this committee is, that in regard the privy council is grown ſo numerous, the buſineſs of the revenue may be reduced into fewer hands. The new draft of the letter, (and indeed the old one is little other) impowers them only in two points, viz. as commiſſioners of accounts, and as perſons who are to adjuſt the claims of the farmers for defalcations and abatements: which is well enough, provided the letter be followed with inſtructions directing them to proceed in all matters relating to the revenue; and upon this ſcore it is not only proper, but neceſſary, that your lordſhip be named one of this number, which, if they were barely commiſſioners of accounts, it would not ſeem ſo conſiſtent: therefore if that clauſe of the firſt draft be added, excluding every of the commiſſioners therein to be named, from any power of voting, or otherwiſe acting thereupon, in any caſe where any of them ſhould be particularly concerned, I conceive the ſecond draft may do very well. I do much apprehend the ill effects that the ſending over money from hence by the farmers to ſerve their own occaſions, may produce; though I am very confident, and think upon good grounds, they have not remitted

ted ſo much as your lordſhip imagines; yet, however, I ſhall take the beſt care I can to prevent it, and make them pay in his Majeſty's money here ſpeedily.

The letter in favour of the ſheriffs, will doubtleſs be very welcome to all the gentlemen of this country. On Monday next I ſhall communicate it to the council.

As to the reducing the quit-rent, I am confident we are in the right in the main, viz. that none be reduced, but where the land cannot anſwer his Majeſty's rents: and for information which theſe lands are, I conceive we can have no better than that from the farmers, who have had ſome years experience of collecting the ſame. Mr. Roberts pretends he can inform me beyond any man concerning this matter: I will within a day or two ſpeak with him. As to the manner of giving theſe abatements, I apprehend you have propoſed the right way, that it be done by commiſſion here, and that but very few be named of the commiſſion your lordſhip is in. Some miſtake in ſuppoſing that there was formerly a commiſſion for abating theſe rents; Mr. ſollicitor tells me, it was done by the lieutenant and council, in purſuance of the acts of ſettlement, and not by any ſpecial order; ſo as when we go on with this affair, I conceive it will be neceſſary only to have a letter, which I ſhall in a few days get drawn here, and tranſmitted to your lordſhip. One thing I muſt obſerve, that the lands of my lord Clancartie, mentioned in the liſt ſent over by your lordſhip, as of too mean value to bear the quit-rent, are about 49000 acres, and valued there at 7d. per acre; but upon reference of his Majeſty's, for the adjuſting ſome differences between my lord Clancartie and the antient proprietors, we have been forced to iſſue out commiſſions for the valuation

valuation of theſe lands; on the return of which I do find, that ſome of them are worth 18 d. per acre, and others not above 1 d. or 2 d. per acre: ſo as for this parcel of land, we can adjuſt the quit-rent to that which is reaſonable upon every ſeveral tenement; and, if there were time, perhaps the beſt courſe would be to iſſue commiſſions for all the others, it being impoſſible to ſet an acre-tax upon large ſcopes of land, but there will be inequality.

I ſhould be very glad to know what the reſult is in Sir Maurice Euſtace's buſineſs, both in relation to Port Leſter and the mills in the park. The letter concerning Reſpites, I have long ſince received.

I am, your lordſhip's faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Mr. ſecretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, Feb. 20, 1674-5.

I Have yours of the 13th, together with his Majeſty's letter in behalf of dean Ward. I muſt give you my hearty thanks for your care and endeavours in this buſineſs; and do aſſure you, the perſon whom you have obliged, is grateful to all here, and I doubt not but will do very well in the employment his Majeſty has been pleaſed to favour him with. By a letter of his Majeſty's, dated 31ſt Auguſt, 1672, power is given to myſelf and the council here, to raiſe the value of foreign coin: the words of the letter are theſe.

" As to what you and our council there propoſe " in your letter of raiſing foreign coin, We have " conſidered of that matter, and are of opinion, " with advice of our council, and accordingly We " will that you and the council do prepare ſuch a " proclamation for the raiſing or abating foreign " coins,

" coins, as you ſhall judge expedient for the good of
" that our kingdom; but that you forbear to iſſue
" it 'till you ſhall have firſt tranſmitted the ſame
" hither to Us for our view and approbation. Here
" are a ſort of Portugal money called cruſadoes,
" weighing 14 penny-weight; there are alſo another
" ſpecies of cruſadoes, weighing but 11 penny-
" weight, which two ſorts have of late gone pro-
" miſcuouſly at three ſhillings a piece; the reaſon
" of it was this, thoſe of 14 d. wt. being the only
" ſort which then came over hither, were, by publick
" proclamation, appointed to paſs at 3s. 8d. The
" merchants who traded into thoſe countries bring-
" ing over a great quantity of the worſer ſort, the
" ſtamps whereof being alike, uttered them at 3s. 8d.
" but the people finding the fraud, and that there
" wanted in them one 5th part of the ſilver, would
" take neither the one or the other at more than 3s.
" ſo as the inconvenience from hence ariſes, that
" when any of the weightier ſort are given in pay-
" ment, the goldſmiths finding their profits, melt
" them down, by which means the coin is dimi-
" niſhed. Now there being a conſiderable trade be-
" tween this kingdom and Portugal, probably ſome
" quantity of this money will be brought over,
" wherefore We have conſidered the matter, and do
" conceive it for the benefit of the country, that this
" money have its due value according to its ſeveral
" ſpecies. The plate pieces of Mexico weighing
" 17 d. wt. which is the general money of the
" kingdom, and therefore may properly be taken
" for a ſtandard to the reſt, paſs for 4s. 9d. at
" which rate this Portugal piece, weighing 14 d. wt.
" conſidering weight and fineneſs of ſilver, is worth
" very near 3s. 11 d. but to avoid fractions in pay-

" ment, the proclamation fixes it at 3s. 9d. And " in regard We do limit it to the full weight, there " cannot be either injuſtice or inconvenience of any " kind, to raiſe it to this value; and for your bet- " ter information I have herewith incloſed a piece of " each coin."

You may pleaſe to propoſe it to his Majeſty, that I may have his approbation, according to form, for iſſuing out his proclamation. The 23d January I writ to you concerning the paſſing of charters to corporations: the agents of ſeveral of them attend in town at charge; and, 'till I have a return from England, I cannot paſs theſe charters: wherefore I deſire, ſo ſoon as may be, to know his Majeſty's pleaſure upon theſe points.

I am,

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

Herewith incloſed is a letter in behalf of Dr. Ward, for diſpenſing with a clauſe in their ſtatutes, which forbids the provoſt to marry. The laſt provoſt was married; and had this gentleman been ſo, when his Majeſty's letter came, his being ſo was of itſelf a diſpenſation. I deſire you will get his Majeſty to ſign it, yet with this caution, that if you find the endeavouring this letter will ſtir up dean Sheridan's pretenſions again, it would be better omitted; but if it may be done without this hazard, I would be glad ſuch a letter were ſent.

By

By the Lord Lieutenant and Council.

WHEREAS the King's moſt excellent Majeſty being informed that there is great ſcarcity of coin in this his Majeſty's kingdom of Ireland, and that by means thereof, all commerce in courſe is much hindered, and many inconveniencies may befal the publick, if ſome timely remedy be not applied; and it being offered to his Majeſty, as a preſent expedient, that the values of ſome ſort of foreign coin, which have been lately made current in this kingdom, may be raiſed to a higher rate; and his Majeſty having been graciouſly pleaſed to take the ſame into his princely conſideration, and by his letters, under his royal ſignature and ſign manual, bearing date at his court at Whitehall, to ſignify unto us his royal will and pleaſure; that we ſhould raiſe that ſort of foreign coin, commonly called Portugal cruſadoes, weighing 14 d. wt. from 3 s. unto 3s. 10d. and the half Portugal cruſadoes, weighing 7 d. wt. unto 1s. 11 d. and that we ſhould cauſe his Majeſty's good pleaſure therein ſignified towards his good people, to be made publick, and the ſaid foreign pieces of coin to be made current, according to the rate aforeſaid, within this his Majeſty's kingdom of Ireland. Now we, the lord lieutenant and council, in all humble obedience to his Majeſty's royal commands, do hereby publiſh and declare, that all and ſingular theſe pieces of foreign coin, commonly called the Portugal cruſadoes, weighing 14 d. wt. which now are, or ſhall at any time from or after the date of this proclamation, be brought into this kingdom, ſhall, from and after the date of this our ſaid proclamation, be allowed, accepted, and paſs in all payments, as well to and from his Majeſty, as other-

wiſe however, between party and party, as current monies within this kingdom, at the rate of 3s. 10d. as fully and freely, to all intents and purpoſes, as if the ſame were ſterling and current monies of and in England; and that the half Portugal cruſadoes, weighing 7 d. wt. ſhall be allowed, accepted, and paſs in all payments at the rate of 1s. 11d. current money, in like manner, to all intents and purpoſes, within this kingdom, as if the ſame were ſterling monies, current of and in England. And in caſe any of the ſaid pieces, made current by this proclamation, ſhall want of the weight therein laid down for the ſaid pieces reſpectively, that then there be allowance given of 3d. for each penny-weight, being 24 grains, ſo wanting in any of the aforeſaid pieces reſpectively, and ſo proportionably for greater or leſſer wants of weight in the ſaid pieces: and in caſe ſuch defect of weight as aforeſaid, ſhall be ſupplied in manner as aforeſaid, then, and in ſuch caſe, every piece ſo defective in weight as aforeſaid, and that defect of weight ſo ſupplied in manner aforeſaid, ſhall be allowed and paſs in all payments, as well to and from his Majeſty, or otherwiſe however, as current money within this kingdom, as fully and freely, as if the ſame were ſterling money current of and in England. And we do hereby declare, that no payment ſhall be made unto his Majeſty, nor any perſon or perſons of what quality, nation, or condition ſoever, ſhall be forced to receive any of the ſeveral pieces of coin aforeſaid in any payment or payments whatſoever, or otherwiſe, unleſs every ſuch piece as aforeſaid be of the weight abovementioned for ſuch piece, or unleſs ſuch allowance be given for defect of weight as aforeſaid. And we require all mayors, ſheriffs, portrieves, bailiffs, and all other chief officers of corporations, and all juſtices of peace, upon any difference

difference ariſing or concerning the paſſing of any the pieces of ſilver, formerly, and in this proclamation mentioned to paſs in manner as aforeſaid: and in caſe of defect of weight with the reſpective allowances aforeſaid, that in all and every ſuch caſes of difference, they and every of them do determine ſuch differences according to the rules given by this proclamation. Given, &c.

To Mr. ſecretary Coventry

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, Feb. 25, 1674-5.

THE perſon who brings this letter is my lord Slane: He is married to the earl of Drogheda's daughter. His occaſions now carrying him into England, where I find he has little acquaintance, he deſired me to write to ſome friend of mine to recommend him, ſo as he might make his applications in his concerns there. All that I have to intreat of you is, that you will be pleaſed to ſhew him your civility when he ſhall addreſs himſelf to you.

I remain,

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, March 2, 1674-5.

BY Mr. Harbord I received the favour of your lordſhip's moſt kind letter, which gives me a further confirmation of the continuance of your eſteem and value for me; of which I have ſo many eminent inſtances, as I were certainly a moſt ingrate-

ful perſon, did I not endeavour to render your lordſhip all the ſervices within my power. And tho', perhaps, I may not have ſo frequent opportunities of expreſſing my zeal for you, as I wiſh, yet, whenever any ſhall arrive, I ſhall not fail to ſhew myſelf faithful and cordial to your lordſhip's concerns. I find by my lord Conway, that he did not intend to be preſent at this next ſeſſions of parliament. But I ſhall take ſome time to diſcourſe with him upon that ſubject: and indeed, he is ſo good a man, as I ſhall want him if he go; tho' if it be of more uſe to his Majeſty's affairs to have him there than here, I will perſwade him to it. Mr. Harbord will be there, and I am ſure what he can do, or the beſt intereſt I have with any there, ſhall be engaged to make his meeting a happy one, which I pray God grant it may.

I have lately writ to know his Majeſty's pleaſure, in whoſe hands he would acquaint me to place my proxy, who was graciouſly pleaſed to anſwer, that he would not aſſign any perſon, but leave it wholly to myſelf to diſpoſe it where I think it fitteſt, not doubting but I would continue to place it in good hands. Being at this liberty, I humbly offer it to your lordſhip, and have herewith incloſed it, being fully aſſured that I cannot intruſt it with any who doth more faithfully intend both his Majeſty's and this kingdom's good. Your lordſhip's favour to dean Ward was very ſeaſonable in many reſpects, and particularly in relation to myſelf: for when things of this nature are carried againſt the governor's mind, it much weakens his credit and intereſt here, where the people are generally but too apt to deſpiſe thoſe who are ſet over them: and I believe this, and the other marks of his Majeſty's favour lately manifeſted, will enable me the better to ſerve him in the poſt where

I am. I have nothing further to trouble your lordſhip with, but remain

Your lordſhip's moſt faithful
and moſt obedient ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Ranelagh.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, March 2, 1674-5.

I HAVE two of yours both of the 20th February, one of them relating to my lord of Burlington's concerns here, which I ſhall take care of. The other mentions Sir George Hamilton's recruits: this ſhall be carried on in the way his Majeſty directs.

As for the farmers accounts, now depending in the exchequer, I will immediately order them to be diſpatched. Your lordſhip well knows how dextrous the commiſſioners of Cork-houſe are in delay of buſineſs; but they ſhall be preſſed as earneſtly as may be to make them up. The accounts of the ſeveral branches of the revenue, given in upon oath, are, as your lordſhip tells me, much excepted againſt in England, and therefore that it is deſired I ſhould examine their books. I have already ſpent ſome time in this work, and made uſe of ſir John Champante to aſſiſt me. The ſeveral branches are, the cuſtoms, and imported exciſe, the inland exciſe, the hearth money, the wine-licence, and the quit-rents. As for the quit-rents, I think they need not ſo ſtrict an examination, in regard we do pretty near the matter know what they are. For the wine-licences, the value is but ſmall, and the hearth-money being ſub-farmed by them, I conceive they could not venture to bring it in otherwiſe than really it is. But the

greateſt fallacy, in my apprehenſion, may be in the cuſtoms and imported exciſe, as alſo in the inland exciſe, which two branches I intend to look more narrowly into; yet, not altogether neglecting the others, two compleat ſets of their books of receipts of the cuſtoms and imported exciſe, for the two firſt years of the farm, viz. from 1669 to 1671, have already been brought to me; and I do believe, that the books they produce were really the original books, but cannot find any difference in them, from the accounts they have given in, which makes me ſuppoſe, that the others to be yet inſpected, will prove the ſame: ſo as I fear I ſhall have little light this way to diſcover any error committed. Wherefore conſidering with myſelf what cheque there is upon their accounts, I did look upon the comptroller general's office as purpoſely erected for theſe ends, and have ſent him to give me an extract of the accounts he receives from the King's officers of each port of the cuſtoms and imported exciſe, for all the ſeveral years ſince the beginning of the farm. This he has promiſed me to be compleated within fourteen days; and then, I have told him, to go on with the like for the other branches of the revenue. If your lordſhip can propoſe any better way than this, I ſhould be glad to know it; for I am pretty confident that by their own books we ſhall be little the wiſer; tho' it will take a vaſt time to inſpect them narrowly.

The laſt packet brought me from Mr. ſecretary Coventry a full ſignification of his Majeſty's pleaſure concerning the diſorders of this city. I have tranſmitted a letter, prepared for his Majeſty's ſignature, in behalf of Mr. Sollicitor, and have put it into the hands of Mr. ſecretary Coventry. The letter, as it is drawn, is only a renewal of a former in my lord of Ormond's time, for the grant of three hundred

pounds

pounds per annum, whereof he hath had no benefit. Your lordſhip, as well as any man, knows how uſeful a ſervant he is to his Majeſty, and therefore I doubt not of your aſſiſtance, when it ſhall come referred to my lord treaſurer, to acquaint his lordſhip with the merits of this man. Mr. attorney hath, as I am told, received of his Majeſty's grace 800l. a year; whereas this gentleman hath only ſome ſnips of land, not worth above 50 or 60l. per annum. I have propoſed an addition of 200l. to the 300l. intended him in my lord duke of Ormond's time; and if the letter come in form, it may be of advantage to him, where his Majeſty ſhall give a liberty for the diſtribution of lands.

My lord Dillon is going this night for England, to endeavour the ſecuring the eſtate to himſelf which his predeceſſors injuſtly enjoyed. I give you this hint, becauſe you know where I wiſh it may go, if his Majeſty keep it in his diſpoſal, it being one of the beſt things in Ireland.

I am, your lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,
ESSEX.

To Sir Henry Capel.

Dear Brother, Dublin Caſtle, Mar. 2, 1674-5.

MR. Harbord being arrived, I received your ſeveral letters by him and my couſin Wiſeman. As to the matter of Eſſex-houſe, I have diſcourſed it fully with Mr. Harbord, and tho' I am ſatisfied that both of you do adviſe me that which you think for the beſt, yet I cannot imagine, all circumſtances conſidered, why I ſhould now refuſe it, unleſs

unleſs it were proper for me to put a notorious affront upon his Majeſty, and the greateſt diſobligation upon my lord treaſurer imaginable. I do believe, that what yourſelf and Mr. Harbord have done in this affair, will encreaſe the price at leaſt one or two thouſand pounds; and, I am ſure, I gave you early notice enough by a letter in cypher, which way this matter was moving, and deſired that Mr. Harbord might uſe his induſtry in bringing down the price, and that was all he was to do; inſtead of which, every one was told that I was not like to accept it, which has ſo bungled the buſineſs, as I fear it will not come ſo cheap as otherwiſe it might have done. Mr. Harbord hath now undertaken to ſee the purchaſe gone through with, and by this poſt has written letters to that purpoſe into England. Upon the whole, I would not have you imagine that I think you did other than what you preſume beſt for me; tho' I do not agree with you in this particular. I have alſo two of yours of the 20th, and one of the 23d. Mr. Harriott's affair is already ordered to be done; and tho' he cannot receive this money preſently, yet the commiſſioners of the treaſury have promiſed me, by quarterly payments, to clear the 1000l. againſt Chriſtmas next.

I am,

Your moſt affectionate brother,

ESSEX.

I deſire you would for the preſent forbear paying any more debts, and reſerve what money you have, and what I ſhall ſend in ſtock for the purchaſe of Eſſex-houſe.

To

To Mr. Secretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, March 2, 1674-5.

BY mr. Harbord who arrived here yeſterday, I received yours of the 15th of February, and the ſame evening came in two packets which brought me in yours of the 20 and 23d, the latter whereof gives me a full ſignification of his Majeſty's pleaſure in relation to the diſorders of the city, the laſt week ſome of the buſieſt men amongſt them apprehending, as I am told, that I was preparing for them, and that ſome ſeverity would be uſed againſt them, were endeavouring themſelves a little to have qualified the matter, and an aſſembly being called for that purpoſe, a petition was drawn which would reaſonably well have ſalved up the buſineſs, and indeed I ſhould have been very well pleaſed to have it compoſed, but this failed, and being tranſacted amongſt themſelves, I thought it not neceſſary to give you a character thereof. It falls out a little unluckily that the judges are going their circuit now when theſe diſorders are to be enquired into, but I have ſtopt my lord chief juſtice of Ireland for ſome few days, and ordered him with the aſſiſtance of mr. attorney and mr. ſollicitor to examine ſtrictly who were the incendiaries and promoters of theſe mutinous proceedings, and as there ſhall be any further material I ſhall acquaint you therewith. I have encloſed a letter in behalf of mr. ſollicitor; it recites one of the ſame nature in my lord of Ormond's time, as it is only a renewal thereof, he having received no benefit at all by his ſaid former letter. Mr. ſollicitor is as worthy a man, and as good a ſervant to his Majeſty as any I know, he has ſerved in this ſtation ever ſince the King's reſtoration. Mr. attorney now enjoys at leaſt 800 l. in lands by his Majeſty's grace; but this gentleman being a modeſt man hath never

aſked

aſked any thing except 50 or 60 l. a year which lay contiguous to his houſe, and this is all he poſſeſſes of his Majeſty's bounty. The letter is for the paſſing of 300 l. a year, if you pleaſe to move his Majeſty, that it may be augmented to 500l. I am ſure his pains have well deſerved it, and the charge of diſcovering and proving his Majeſty's title, is ſo great as will cut off a good ſhare of what his Majeſty intends him, whenever the King ſhall think fit to let looſe theſe grants that they may be paſſed. In a letter of mine of the 23d of January, I remembered ſome particulars concerning granting new charters to corporations, I have as yet received no anſwer thereto, the agents of them attending here in town at charge, grow a little impatient, therefore I preſume to remind you thereof, that I may have a ſignification of his Majeſty's pleaſure upon this ſubject.

I am,

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

RIGHT truſty, and right well beloved couſin and counſellor We greet you well. Whereas We by Our letters under our privy ſignet and ſign manual, bearing date at Our court at Whitehall the 19th of January in the year 1663, in conſideration of the many faithful ſervices performed unto Us by ſir John Temple, knt. Our ſollicitor general of Our kingdom of Ireland, did require Our then lord lieutenant of Our ſaid kingdom to cauſe one more effectual letters patents to be paſſed under the great ſeal of Our ſaid kingdom, to Our ſaid ſollicitor general and his heirs, of ſuch forfeited tenements, lands, and hereditaments in Our ſaid kingdom as ſhould amount unto the clear value of 300 l. per annum,

over

over and above all charges and repriſals, as by Our ſaid letters doth appear. And whereas We are informed that the ſaid ſir John Temple hath not hithereto received any benefit of the favour intended thereby to him, nor hath yet paſſed any patent of any lands, tenements or hereditaments in purſuance of Our ſaid grant, and that you are not impowered to paſs any lands unto him in purſuance thereof, in regard the ſame were only directed to the duke of Ormond our then lieutenant of Our ſaid kingdom, and not to the lieutenant for the time being. And whereas, We ſtill retaining a gracious memory of the ſaid ſir John Temple's diligence in Our ſervice, are reſolved to place upon him ſome mark of Our gracious acceptance thereof, We have therefore thought fit hereby to declare Our royal will and pleaſure, and we do hereby authorize and require you to cauſe one or more effectual letters patents to be paſſed to the ſaid ſir John Temple, and his heirs, or to ſuch other perſon or perſons, his or their heirs and aſſigns, as he the ſaid ſir John Temple ſhall name or appoint under his hand and ſeal of ſuch and ſo many lands, tenements, or hereditaments in poſſeſſion, reverſion, or remainder, belonging to Us in Our ſaid kingdom of Ireland, either in right of Our crown by any new or antient title, or forfeited to, or veſted in us by the late acts of ſettlement or explanation, as ſhall amount to the clear yearly value of 300 l. per annum, over and above all rents and other charges payable thereunto accordingly, as the value of the ſaid lands, tenements, hereditaments ſhall be aſcertained and ſettled by you, either by any office or inquiſition that ſhall be taken thereof, or by the valuations formerly made of lands in Ireland by Our lord lieutenant and council of Our

Our ſaid kingdom, or by any ſurvey remaining in Our ſurveyor general's office of Our ſaid kingdom, by which rates or any of them, or any other ways and means that you ſhall think fit to make uſe of, we do hereby fully authorize you to ſettle and aſcertain the value of the ſaid lands and premiſſes. To have and to hold the ſaid lands, tenements and hereditaments, to the ſaid ſir John Temple, his heirs and aſſigns, or to be held of Us by Our heirs and ſucceſſors under ſuch yearly rents, to be payable therein unto Us, as any adventurers and ſoldiers are by the ſaid act of ſettlement to pay in the ſeveral provinces in our ſaid kingdom wherein the ſaid lands and premiſſes ſhall appear to be; and we do hereby further authorize you to admit the ſaid ſir John Temple and his heirs, in caſe he or they ſhall deſire the ſame, to place deficiencies of any intereſt ſatisfiable by the ſaid acts of ſettlement and explanation upon any lands, tenements or hereditaments forfeited to, or veſted in Us by the ſaid acts, that ſhall be preſented to you to be paſſed unto him or them in purſuance of theſe our letters, in ſuch manner as you ſhall think fit, and alſo to cauſe ſuch inquiſitions to be taken and returned for the finding our right and title to any lands, tenements, and hereditaments to be paſſed to the ſaid ſir John Temple or his heirs, by virtue of theſe Our letters, and for aſcertaining the yearly value thereof, as you ſhall find to be neceſſary, and alſo to cauſe all ſuch beneficial clauſes and non obſtants to be inſerted in the ſaid letters patents, as may ſerve to make the ſame effectual, and in ſuch caſes as uſual, and for ſo doing, theſe Our letters, notwithſtanding any former rules, orders, or reſtriction to the contrary, ſhall be your ſufficient warrant. Given, &c.

To

To Sir Henry Capel.

Dear Brother, Dublin Caſtle, Mar. 2, 1674-5.

THE order to direct my proceedings with this mutinous people of this city is come; ſome endeavours have been lately uſed among themſelves to accommodate the matter, which I did not think worth the enlarging mr. ſecretary Coventry's letter ſo much as to fill it with the particulars; but in regard ſeveral here do give accounts to my lord of Angleſey and my lord of Berkley, of all little things that paſs, and circumſtantiate them all they can to my diſadvantage: I conceive it may not be amiſs for you to know how things move. The laſt week ſome of thoſe perſons who were moſt buſy in ſtirring up the people to diſobey our orders, fearing a ſtorm, and apprehending, as I am told, that no publick enquiry or notice being taken of their refractorineſs, was only to ſtay till orders came out of England, and that they then ſhould be fallen upon with more ſeverity, began to be in a little better temper, and were conſidering how to come off, in order to which a petition was prepared to offer to the aſſembly, *in the name of ſome of the commons*, which is the form of their proceedings, among other things ſetting forth "that the lieutenant and council having ſignified their pleaſure, that the memory of all paſt differences ſhould ceaſe, and that all orders and acts which tend to the continuance of their diſunion, the memory thereof ſhould be obliterated and forgotten, they do therefore deſire, that theſe formerly expelled aldermen and recorder may be actually by the aſſembly reſtored to their places, and that all reports and acts of aſſembly for their removal, ſhould be cancelled and taken off the file;" but then towards the latter end there is a clauſe of confirmation to all other acts

of

of aſſembly done, where by an oblique way, Phillpot and Greſſingham two of the troubleſome men would have been made aldermen, they having been elected by a diſorderly aſſembly into two vacant places, and not into the places of thoſe turned out, and upon that ground would thus have been reſtored: this petition going in, and I made acquainted with the tranſaction by a private hand, I conceived it much below the dignity of my place to take any publick notice of what they were doing, after the affront they had offered to his Majeſty's authority, and finding that the two main points in our order were complied with, viz. by declaring by act of aſſembly, that theſe aldermen were reſtored, and the cancelling all the records relating to their expulſion. Tho' I did ſee the artifice of bringing thoſe two men to be aldermen, as alſo that it was in a great meaſure contrary to our order, which declared all the proceedings during that ſpace of time relating to the election of any aldermen to be null and void; yet in regard the matter was come into ſo narrow a compaſs, I did give a private intimation to my lord mayor that in caſe ſuch a petition as this was propoſed, I thought it might be convenient to paſs, even if they did at the ſame time elect thoſe two perſons to be aldermen, and that tho' this clauſe did ſtand in the petition, yet if they were the ſame day elected, I conceived our order might be well enough complied with, and did hope it might end the matter among them. But at their aſſembly which was on Saturday laſt, the aldermen poſitively refuſed to paſs the petition unleſs this clauſe was ſtruck out, and urged it as I am told, upon this account, that it was an apparent breach of the order of lieutenant and council, and others being obſtinate to keep it in, the aſſembly broke up and nothing done, tho' theſe aldermen

dermen are clearly in the right, if things be ſtrictly conſidered, yet I confeſs for my own part, I could have wiſhed they had ended the matter as is before mentioned, for all theſe diſorders in corporations are ever carried on with paſſion and croſſneſs on either ſide, and tho', I cannot but ſay, that theſe aldermen have ſince my coming behaved themſelves with all imaginable duty and reſpect towards the King's authority, yet have they not been altogether well tempered one to another, and have given alſo theſe factious men ſome advantages againſt them by their indiſcretion, as particularly their electing ſome men into their body, who are notorious nonconformiſts, and indeed there are but too many of that rank of people among them; ſome of theſe new elected aldermen being this preſent, as I am told, lay-elders of churches, &c. therefore, conſidering there have been faults on both ſides, I ſhould have been well pleaſed if this affair might among themſelves have been thus compoſed. I have herewith encloſed a copy of the ſaid petition, and ſcored it in theſe places which are moſt conſiderable.

I am,

Your moſt affectionate brother,

ESSEX.

I have writ this letter, that in caſe any diſcourſe ſhould be in England of theſe tranſactions here, you may ſo evict the truth. Shew it to mr. ſecretary Coventry, or whom elſe you think fit.

To the Right Honourable

The Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Commons, and Citizens of the City of Dublin.

The humble Petition of certain of the Commons;

Humbly ſheweth,

THAT on or about the 3d day of April 1672, there happened a difference between ſir Francis Brewſter, knight, ſir William Davis, knight, alderman Richard Tigh, alderman Daniel Hutchinſon, ſir Joſhua Allen, Mark Quin, Enoch Reader, Lewis Deſminers, aldermen, and the then lord mayor, ſheriffs, commons and citizens, which difference through ſome miſtakes and miſunderſtandings on both ſides, did grow to that height, that the ſaid ſir Francis Brewſter, and the reſt of the perſons abovenamed were for ſome time removed from their places of honour and truſt in this city, by the lord mayor and ſheriffs, commons, and citizens, which ſaid miſunderſtandings and unhappy differences have continued until this day, the cauſe whereof muſt be confeſſed by all, to be too much retaining the memory of the beginning of the ſaid unhappy differences, the conſequence whereof muſt of neceſſity prove very fatal, if not deſtructive to this antient and loyal city, unleſs ſome ſpeedy courſe be taken to reſtore us to our antient love and amity among ourſelves, always remembering that a city divided cannot ſtand. Now for as much as your petitioners are very ſenſible of the evil conſequence that have and may befall this city in caſe the ſaid miſunderſtandings ſhould continue; and to the end that the ſaid differences, and all others, may be for ever buried in oblivion, and that perfect love and amity may be renewed among all

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and every the members of this city, which is the earneſt deſire of all good citizens.

" And whereas his excellency the lord lieutenant " and council of this kingdom, have in their great " wiſdom and care of the welfare of this city ſigni- " fied their pleaſure, that the citizens of this city " may return to their antient union and amity to- " wards each other, and all orders and acts which tend " towards the continuance of their diſunion, or the " very memory thereof may be obliterated and for- " gotten."

Your petitioners do therefore pray, that the ſaid ſir Francis Brewſter, ſir William Davis, ſir Joſhua Allen, Daniel Hutchinſon, Lewis Deſminers and Enoch Reader, aldermen; may be by an act of this preſent aſſembly reſtored to their reſpective places of honour and truſt in this city, and that the petitioners report, and acts of aſſembly made the 3d of April 1672, for the removing the aforeſaid perſons from their, or any of their places, may be hereby declared to be null and void, that the clerk of the Tholſel do forthwith cancel the ſame, and take them off from among the records of this city, ſo that nothing may remain or record to poſterity of the ſaid difference; and to the end that there may be no more ſuits at law concerning this matter, and that nothing may hereafter ariſe to diſturb the peace and unity of this city, or revive the memory of the ſaid difference; it is humbly prayed, that it may be enacted by this preſent aſſembly, that all other acts and orders that were made by the ſaid mayor, ſheriffs, commons and citizens, from the 28th of April 1672, to the 20th of September following, may be declared to be good and effectual to all intents and purpoſes. And to the end that this act may create a full and perfect love and uni-

on on all ſides, it is further humbly prayed, that there be forthwith an humble addreſs made by the mayor, ſheriffs, commons and citizens, to his excellency the lord lieutenant and council, that they would be graciouſly pleaſed out of their accuſtomed love and favour to this city to recall all thoſe orders of council that have been made concerning theſe unhappy differences, ſo that nothing may remain in any book or roll to put us in mind thereof. And, &c.

To the Earl of Orrery.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Mar. 2, 1674-5.

I Have yours of the 26th of the laſt, and I did only defer giving any reſolution concerning ſuch tories as have ſubmitted themſelves to your lordſhip, till the next aſſizes, that the judges being then informed of the nature of their crimes, and likewiſe made acquainted with the ſervices they have ſince done, might certify me at their return, who they conceived qualified for his Majeſty's mercy; in order to which I think it may be proper for your lordſhip to enlarge their protections until ſuch time as the judges ſhall be returned from their circuits. I have enjoined my lord chief juſtice Povey to proſecute the conſtable mentioned in yours concerning the murderers eſcape, with all ſeverity the law will allow to deter others from offences of the like nature. He will give mr. juſtice Reynall an account of it by the poſt, in caſe he ſhould not himſelf meet him at Cork, as he propoſes to do. To the propoſal of the Romiſh prieſt, I can only anſwer in general terms, that in caſe any of them ſhall be inſtrumental

mental in the diſcovering and apprehending tories, and ſuch malefactors, and it ſhall appear that they have been at any extraordinary expence or attendance in the proſecution, that then beſides the encouragement and countenance of the government, they ſhall have ſuch further recompence as their ſervices ſhall be found to deſerve, for to be more particular with them would ſeem to grant an owning of their juriſdiction.

I am, Your lordſhip's
faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Ranelagh.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Mar. 8, 1674-5.

IN a letter of yours to my lord Conway, I find how much I am obliged to your lordſhip in the matter of Eſſex-houſe, and what care and pains you have taken therein; I can yet hardly believe that the bargain with Dr. Barebone is other than fictious, but the ſtop in this affair that ſome perſons have given, from whom I little expected it, hath made room for this artifice to raiſe the price: that no man can build in or about London upon other than old foundations, unleſs with the King's licence, is beyond all doubt. A copy of a petition from the middle Temple hath lately come to my view, and I do hear there is another from the city of London, to hinder the turning of this garden into tenements, ſo I preſume a licence will not be obtained; and if ſo, I do not ſee but probably ſome of the price muſt be abated to his Majeſty. The propoſal

offered to Dr. Barebone for the building of a houſe upon this ground, and ſelling of it to me, is no way agreeable to my inclinations. And indeed I do more value his Majeſty's favour, than the thing itſelf; and regarding it as a mark of honour to my family, that will be permanent with them, I deſire, either to have it as it is, or not at all; therefore if your lordſhip pleaſe to ſee how this Dr. Barebone may be taken off his bargain, which if it muſt break for default of licence, as I have already ſaid, I do yet hope there may be ſome abatement in the price. I have now employed one mr. Cratford, who is my lord Conway's ſollicitor, to make this purchaſe, and have directed where he will have all or moſt of the money ready to pay for it, your lordſhip may therefore ſend for and confer with him, that you may underſtand one another, ſo as the thing may go on. There is nothing of buſineſs here at preſent to trouble you with, ſo as I ſhall conclude with my thanks to you for your favour in this my private concern, and remain, with all reality,

Your lordſhip's, moſt faithful
moſt humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Sir Henry Capel.

Dear Brother, Dublin Caſtle, Mar. 8, 1674-5.

I Have yours of the 27th of February, all concerning Eſſex-houſe, of which I care to ſay no more, it being a matter reſolved, only I cannot but obſerve, that among your remarks you ſay it may have ſome ill conſequence, that a hardſhip is uſed to thoſe who

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are ſelling it, in wreſting it from them; if any ſuch thing ſhould happen, or any reflection come upon me thereby, thoſe ought to take it upon them, who contrary to my opinion would go their own ways and obſtruct it, or otherwiſe it had been agreed for, before any other could have pretended to have contracted, and I am ſure let the beſt come of it that will, their indiſcretion will raiſe it one or two thouſand pounds in the price. I have given full orders in this matter by the laſt packet as you already know, and therefore ſhall ſay no more, but remain

Your moſt affectionate brother,

ESSEX.

Pray thank mr. Chiffins for the cheeſe I have received from him ſince my writing. I have yours of the 2d of March.

To Sir Charles Harbord.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, Mar. 8, 1674-5.

I Have received two or three of yours lately, the laſt bearing date February 27, and therein among other things, ſome account of Eſſex-houſe. I am very confident the bargain mr. Thinne pretends to have made with Dr. Barebone is only a colluſion, and what I hear mr. Thinne ſaith, makes me the rather believe ſo, that Dr. Barebone had given twenty ſhillings earneſt for the immediate payment of 13000l. which I think is not an uſual way of binding bargains of ſo high a value. However, I cannot but preſume, that the petitions which you mention to me to have been preſented unto his Majeſty againſt

the turning of it into tenements, will ſtop that deſign, as indeed it is fit it ſhould, for I think it one of the ſhamefuleſt things in the world, that that part of the town which is next to the court, and lyes to the water, ſhould be turned into ill favoured wharfs and tenements. Your ſon being come away, I have employed mr. Cratford, a perſon whom I believe you well know to make the bargain for me, who I doubt not will take your advice as he proceeds. The papers concerning Dr. Gorge are long, and I ſhall give you an anſwer to them by the next.

I am,
Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Duke of Ormond.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Mar. 8, 1674-5.

BY yours of the 22d of February, I underſtand your grace's reſolution to go over into England againſt the meeting of the parliament; my letters do generally aſſure me they will ſit, and probably for ſome time. Tho' I alſo hear that ſome there are, who yet hope this meeting may be diverted, I heartily wiſh this ſeſſions may prove happy for his Majeſty's affairs, which I am confident your grace's preſence will much contribute to.

I have nothing further to add, but deſire you to believe me to be ever with all reality,

Your Grace's moſt faithful,
and moſt humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To

To Mr. ſecretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, March 8, 1674-5.

MY lord chief juſtice, with the aſſiſtance of the King's council, hath taken ſeveral examinations concerning the diſorderly proceedings in this city, and ſome of thoſe perſons who were moſt factious, will, I believe, in ſome meaſure be reached by them. The ſeaſon of the aſſizes in the country being now, and no legal proſecution of theſe men being proper till the term, my lord chief juſtice goes his circuit, and at his return he will prepare to puniſh ſome of theſe incendiaries: but in my own thoughts, I am of opinion, and have been long ſo, that nothing will reduce this city to a due compoſure, unleſs it be the avoiding their charter by a *Quo Warranto*, and granting them a new one; for the body of the commons are ſo numerous, there being ninety-ſix of them, beſides ſheriffs peers, which uſually are between twenty and thirty, moſt of the commons being extream poor men, are continually mutinous and factious; whereas, if they had a new charter, and the number reduced to be fewer, and thoſe named out of the moſt ſubſtantial chief trading men of the city, whoſe intereſt it is to be quiet, I am confident it would be the only way to bring them into order and peace. This I hint to you by way of diſcourſe, which I would not have formally propoſed to his Majeſty till I have better conſidered of it, tho' I am apt to think in the end it muſt be done. Since the levying of the lapſe-money is reſolved, here are two pretenſions ſtarted up for part of it, and have been offered to me: the one is of ſir John Davis, the preſent clerk of the council, as left him by his father

father, ſir Paul Davis, a perſon who doubtleſs deſerved very well of the crown, and was at a conſiderable charge, laying out money of his own, during the war, for the publick ſervice; and on that ſcore was ordered repayment upon the lapſed money, &c. as will appear by a letter in my lord of Ormond's time, a copy whereof is here incloſed; and having received no benefit thereby, he deſires the renewal thereof, if his Majeſty thinks fit.

The other is claimed by major Bolton; the ground whereof is, that he was employed both here in Ireland and in London, in diſcovering and abſtracting the forfeited lapſe-money, &c. and had a letter of his Majeſty's for 500l. thereof, wherein I obſerve the ſum is put in with his Majeſty's own hand. I have tranſmitted both theſe letters to you for a further ſignification of his Majeſty's pleaſure therein.

I am,

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

Right Truſty, &c.

WHEREAS by Our letters under Our royal ſignet, dated the 2d day of February, in the 18th year of Our reign, and directed to Our right truſty and right intirely beloved couſin and councellor, James, duke of Ormond, Our then lieutenant of Our kingdom of Ireland, and to Our chief governor there for the time being. We did, for the reaſons and conſiderations therein expreſſed, adjudge it fit that the ſum of 3155l. 2s. 6d. which We were informed was due unto ſir Paul Davis, knt. deceaſed, Our late principal ſecretary of ſtate of Our ſaid kingdom, or ſo much thereof as ſhould be found due

due to him, ſhould be duly paid unto him out of the remaining 27000l. of the ſum of 30000l. which by the explanatory act is to be paid to Us in lieu and recompence of the forfeited ſubſcriptions, commonly called by the name of lapſed money, excepting that part of the ſaid 27000l. reſerved unto Ourſelves; or out of the money payable by virtue of the ſaid act, upon account of the year's value, excepting the 50000l. payable to Us thereout: and therefore by Our ſaid letters We directed an account to be ſtated of what remained due as aforeſaid to the ſaid ſir Paul Davis; and further required Our ſaid then lieutenant to give order to Our vice treaſurer, or other receiver or receivers of the ſaid 30000l. out of the ſame to ſatisfy and pay unto the ſaid ſir Paul Davis, his executors, adminiſtrators or aſſigns, the ſaid 3155l. 2s. 6d. or ſo much thereof as ſhould be found to be remaining due and unpaid to him. And whereas we are informed that it appears by an account ſtated according to an order of the ſaid duke of Ormond, made in purſuance of Our ſaid letters, before Our chief baron of Our court of exchequer, and before Our late auditor there, that there remained due to the ſaid ſir Paul Davis the ſaid ſum of 3155l. 2s. 6d. and that thereupon, and in obedience to Our ſaid pleaſure in Our ſaid letter ſignified, the ſaid duke of Ormond iſſued his warrant, dated the 4th of May 1666, to Our receiver general of Our ſaid kingdom, that then was, or hereafter ſhould be, out of the ſaid monies to ſatisfy and pay unto the ſaid ſir Paul Davis, his executors, adminiſtrators or aſſigns; but they have not received the ſaid ſum or any part thereof, by reaſon that all the ſaid monies raiſed upon accounts of the ſaid year's value, have been otherwiſe diſpoſed of; and the ſaid

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ſum of 30000l. to be raiſed in recompence of the ſaid lapſed money, has not as yet been offered, whereby they have been much diſappointed of the benefit and advantage that by Our ſaid letters was intended for them. Now, We taking the ſame into Our princely conſideration, and We having by Our letters of the firſt day of February 1674, required and authorized you Our lieutenant to give order for the aſſeſſing and levying the ſaid ſum of 30000l. in the manner therein expreſſed, and the monies ſo levied and aſſeſſed to iſſue and pay in ſuch manner as We ſhall think fit to direct, to the perſons to whom We have granted the ſame: We have therefore thought fit hereby to will and require you, that out of the ſaid money ſo to be levied and aſſeſſed as aforeſaid, you do cauſe to be iſſued and paid to the executors, adminiſtrators, or aſſigns of the ſaid ſir Paul Davis, the ſaid ſum of 3155l. 2s. 6d. and you are to take care, that upon their receiving the ſame, ſuch concordatums, or other warrants as they have for the ſaid ſum, or any part thereof, be given up, to the end that both they may be ſatisfied, and We diſcharged thereof: and for ſo doing, theſe Our letters ſhall be as well unto you Our lieutenant there now being, or to any other lieutenant, deputy, juſtice, juſtices, or other chief governor or governors of that Our kingdom which hereafter for the time ſhall be, and to the commiſſioners of the vice treaſurer's accounts, and to the receiver or receivers of all or any of the ſaid monies, that now are, or hereafter for the time ſhall be receiver or receivers of any of the ſaid monies, and to every of them, and to the commiſſioners of their and every of their accounts, and to all others whom it may concern, ſufficient warrant and diſcharge in that behalf. Given, &c.

To

To Mr. Thinne.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, March 8, 1674-5.

I Have of late received ſeveral of yours, the laſt bearing date the 2d of March, which gives me an account that Nimuegen is accepted for the place of congreſs, but the ſeaſon ſeems to be ſo far advanced, as poſſibly the armies will be engaged in action before any treaty can be begun; therefore in my apprehenſion, 'tis very doubtful whether any peace will follow this ſummer. Theſe few things which I have of buſineſs are encloſed in my letter to Mr. ſecretary Coventry, ſo as I ſhall give you no further trouble, but remain

Your moſt affectionate ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Thinne.

Sir Dublin Caſtle, March 10, 1674-5.

I Have writ to mr. ſecretary Coventry by Saturday's poſt, which letters the contrary winds have kept on this ſide till now. I thought it not worth the troubling him with another, there being nothing to offer but the recommendations of the encloſed letter in behalf of ſir George Gilbert, the ſubſtance of which he petitioned his Majeſty for, ſome months ſince, and had a reference hither: the matter whereof being conſidered, we do not find any inconvenience in granting his requeſt, if it be ſo modelled as by the letter is directed.

There

There is one mr. Glaſcock, whom ſome of the late news letters tell us, his Majeſty was pleaſed to make maſter of the requeſts. If it be the perſon whom I gueſs it is, he is one of the commiſſioners of appeals for the exciſe here; and, if ſo, he now having a ſettled place, which will require his conſtant attendance in England, it would be neceſſary that I name another in his room: and indeed, his abſence, ſo long as already he has been away, is very inconvenient; for there are upon the eſtabliſhment but three of theſe commiſſioners allowed, and there muſt be two to act. One of them is a judge, and the other ſir William Flower, who is old and often infirm, by which means many times a quorum is not to be got. I deſire you will ſpeak with mr. Glaſcock, and let him know that the place being in my diſpoſe, I have pitched upon a perſon to ſucceed him, and to enter upon the employment after Lady-day next.

I am,

Your moſt affectionate ſervant,

ESSEX.

Right Truſty, &c.

WHEREAS upon the humble petition of Our well-beloved ſubject, ſir George Gilbert, knt. alderman of Our city of Dublin, in the kingdom of Ireland, ſetting forth the great want that there is in that Our kingdom of the great beam, or common balance, for the convenient weighing of all merchandizes and other goods in the ſeveral ſea-port cities and towns therein; and by his ſaid petition moſt humbly praying, that as a mark of Our royal bounty

and

and favour, We ſhould be graciouſly pleaſed to grant unto him and his aſſigns the ſetting up the ſaid great beam, or common ballance, in the ſeveral ſea-port cities and towns in that Our kingdom of Ireland, for the term of ſixty-one years: and that he and his aſſigns may be authorized by Our royal grant, to demand and receive all ſuch fees and perquiſites for the ſame, as now are uſually paid unto the keepers of Our great beam, or common ballance, in our city of London. And whereas We being inclined to favour the ſaid ſir George Gilbert in his requeſt, were graciouſly pleaſed to refer his petition to you Our lord lieutenant of that Our kingdom, requiring you to conſider the nature and uſefulneſs of the place petitioned for, and that if you did judge it conducible to Our ſervice, and the publick good of that Our kingdom, to report to Us your opinion thereupon.

And whereas you, by your report bearing date the 19th of December laſt paſt, did ſignify your opinion, that the ſetting up the great beam, or common ballance, in that our kingdom, for determining of controverſies between buyer and ſeller about the weights of merchandizes, may be uſeful, ſo as none be compelled to weigh any goods at ſuch beam, or common balance, and that no fees be exacted, but only from ſuch perſons as ſhall deſire to make uſe thereof. Upon conſideration of all which, We, of our princely bounty and wiſdom, do hereby authorize and require you to cauſe letters patents, under the great ſeal of that Our kingdom, to be granted and paſſed to the ſaid ſir George Gilbert and his aſſigns, of the place, office, and truſt of keeper of Our great beam and common balance, to be ſet up and erected by him the ſaid ſir George Gilbert, or his aſſigns, in all our ſea-port cities and towns in that Our

Our kingdom of Ireland, for the term of three ſcore and one years; and that in the ſaid grant, the ſaid ſir George Gilbert, and his aſſigns, be authorized to make, name, and conſtitute, from time to time, all and every manner of clerks, porters, ſervants, and miniſters, of the ſaid great beam and common balance, and of the iron beam and weights appertaining to both. And further, that the ſaid ſir George Gilbert and his aſſigns, by the ſaid letters patents, be entitled to all and ſingular the commodities, houſes, advantages, profits, wages, fees, and emoluments, that in Our time, or in the time of any of our progenitors, Kings of England, are and were due and accuſtomed, pertaining, or belonging to the ſaid office or keeper of the ſaid great beam or common balance, or of the iron beam and weights belonging to both, in as large and ample manner, and firm as ever any perſon or perſons have had or enjoyed the ſame in Our city of London or kingdom of England, to the proper uſe and behoof of him the ſaid ſir George Gilbert, or his aſſigns, for and during the time before mentioned and expreſſed. And you are alſo to cauſe to be inſerted in Our ſaid letters patents a proviſion, that none be compelled to weigh any goods at ſuch great beam, or common balance, and that no fees be exacted, but only from ſuch perſons as ſhall deſire to make uſe thereof; and alſo a clauſe for the erecting the ſaid office, and all ſuch neceſſary and beneficial clauſes and *non obſtantes* as may help to make the ſame effectual unto the ſaid ſir George Gilbert and his aſſigns, and as in ſuch caſes are uſual. And, &c. Given, &c.

To

To the Lord Ranelagh.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Mar. 10, 1674-5.

BY your lordſhip's of the 20th of February, I underſtand his Majeſty's pleaſure, that ſir George Hamilton ſhould be permitted to have 500 men out of this kingdom to recruit his regiment; but that it be done with privacy, in regard, that if notice be taken, the Dutch ambaſſador would complain. I have ſpoken with ſir Anthony Hamilton, and directed him to proceed with all ſecrecy in the affair, and told him, that if any accounts ſhould come to me out of the country that men were raiſing for foreign ſervice, I would not ſeem to believe it. However, it depends much upon his diſcretion to carry his buſineſs prudently, and without noiſe, which I hope he will do. I find the matter is already ſuſpected in Holland; for my lord of Thomond tells me he has received a letter from my lord Clare, which I hear he has ſhowed to many in town, complaining, that I had hindered 500 men from entering themſelves into the States ſervice, and had impriſoned ſeveral of the officers for inliſting them, &c. and that there were now divers officers for ſerving in the French army gone over on the like errand, whom he hoped would not be better uſed. Whereupon it is paſt all peradventure that notice will be given by ſome buſy perſon or other, of all that theſe officers do here; for which reaſon, if his Majeſty thinks the affair worth a diſguiſe, I can ſend and ſtop ſome few of the laſt who are to take ſhipping, and order them to their own homes; or, after they are all gone, ſend for ſome of theſe merchants who undertook their tranſportation, and admoniſh them of the crime they have committed,

in ſending away ſoldiers who produced no licence or paſs from me; or threaten them, if ever I found them in the like fault again. I conceive, either or both theſe courſes will make my late proceedings ſeem equal to both the parties. Your lordſhip may pleaſe to ſhow his Majeſty this letter, and ſend me word how 'tis approved, or if any other thing be directed.

This country ſuffers much under the want of ſmall money, legally authorized, therefore I wiſh the propoſals concerning it, which I ſent to your lordſhip, were conſidered, and orders given therein.

I am,
Your lordſhip's moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Earl of Orrery.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Mar. 13, 1674-5

I Have yours of the 5th of March, which came to my hands on Monday laſt, but I was then ſo full of buſineſs as I could not return you an anſwer by the ſame poſt.

There can be no hazard to thoſe tories who have already performed ſervice, by the judges giving me an account what they have done; and for the others, who pretend to diſcover the harbourers of this ſort of people, which I look upon to be a better work than taking even the tories themſelves. I think it but reaſonable they ſhould firſt make the diſcovery, and then I give the pardon; it being more proper that they truſt me than I them: and experience alſo hath ſhewed it, that after ſuch like men have had their pardon, they have refuſed to have performed what formerly

formerly they engaged. The Judges have orders, in the enquiry of this matter, to be very tender of thoſe who have done the leaſt ſervice in the affair; and I am ſure, it has been my rule, rather to exceed in ſhewing mercy to thoſe who have been inſtrumental in the bringing the country to quiet, than to do leſs than what upon reaſonable grounds has been promiſed.

Our letters from England this poſt bring us very little news, only a further confirmation of the parliament's meeting, and a probability that a treaty of peace will be begun at Nimeguen this winter.

I am,
Your lordſhip's moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

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To the King.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

I Have received Your Majeſty's moſt gracious letter for the grant of thirteen thouſand pounds, which favour I do, with all humility and gratitude, acknowledge. The money was intended for the purchaſe of Eſſex-houſe, which being a moſt conſpicuous mark of Your Majeſty's bounty, and an honour permanent to my family, would therefore many times double the value of the gift; and had thoſe whom I employed in England, purſued my directions, the purchaſe had been made e'er this; but they, cauſing a moſt unneceſſary demur, have given an opportunity to another perſon to contract for it, which, perhaps, may prevent the placing this favour

on me in the manner it was deſigned. Yet, if Your Majeſty pleaſe to refrain the granting a licence for building on new foundations there, the matter may be retrieved, and Your Majeſty's liberality applied as was at firſt propoſed. But if this cannot be compaſſed, I ſhall receive Your Majeſty's gracious intentions towards me, for ſome other opportunity; aſſuring Your Majeſty, that Your favourable thoughts cannot be beſtowed on any perſon who will own them with a more grateful mind, nor who, with more zeal, doth endeavour to merit the title of,

The moſt faithful,
and moſt obedient of
Your Majeſty's ſubjects and ſervants,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Mar. 17, 1674-5.

HAving received a letter of his Majeſty's, counterſigned by your lordſhip, for the grant of thirteen thouſand pounds, I muſt beg the favour of your lordſhip to deliver the encloſed to his Majeſty. Whether the money can be employed to the uſe it was deſigned, my letters out of England make it very doubtful. Yet, if the garden of Eſſex-houſe be not permitted to be turned into tenements, I am confident the preſent contractors muſt give up their bargain. The agents whom I employ will be more diligent to make the purchaſe of it, if it may be had; and, indeed, the valuing of it as a durable mark of honour to me and my family, inclines me to deſire it more than any other conſideration.

Here

Here are ſeveral affairs relating to this country proper to be communicated to your lordſhip, which I ſhall reſerve 'till the next poſt, and with many acknowledgments of your lordſhip's favour, remain

Your lordſhip's moſt faithful
and moſt humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Ranelagh.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Mar. 17, 1674-5.

I Have received yours of the 9th inſtant, wherein are ſeveral things relating to this kingdom. The commiſſioners of Cork-houſe, and mr. Forth, who is here, do confidently deny the having ſent any money into England, and offer to depoſe it upon oath, if thereunto required, that there hath not by 500l. been remitted into England more money than by bills hath been returned hither. Some among them are great traders, and I am confident do employ the money of the farm in traffick, which is one reaſon, among others, that they are ſo backward in their payments. As to their accounts, delivered in upon oath, I cannot find any cheque upon them, either in relation to the cuſtoms, or imported exciſe, which is the principal thing that ought to be looked into; for the farmers officers have in all the ports thruſt out the King's officers from almoſt acting any thing; and the patent officers having their ſalaries, are willing enough to be eaſed of the troubles, ſince they can get nothing by it. And as for the imported exciſe, theſe patent officers taking themſelves to be only officers of the cuſtoms, do, as I hear, keep no books

at all of it; ſo as mr. Hayes, the comptroller of the revenue here, makes up his accounts by the help of the farmers books: and therefore I can expect no further light by what comes from him. For the port of Dublin, I have made mr. Pledwell, who for many years had the management of it under the farmers, bring me in an abſtract, and that perfectly agrees with the accounts delivered in. The objections made againſt theſe accounts, I ſhould be glad to ſee: there is one which is obvious to me, and undeniable, and may ſerve for all, viz. that theſe farmers offer to advance their rent for a new farm near 40,000l. per annum: and yet their accounts all along would make it appear that they have been loſers by the preſent farm; which are things ſo contradictory, as I know not well how they may be reconciled.

The propoſals you mention to me, as from my lord of Burlington, &c. of having a commiſſion to remedy defective titles, is a thing very reaſonable, and that which muſt at one time or other be done; but I conceive it is not yet ſeaſonable. I am pretty apt to believe, that the books which I have cauſed to be compoſed, of the diſpoſition of lands in this kingdom, may be the reaſon that men begin to move this; but the work being now ſo near perfected, I think it were fit ſome ſpace were allowed, to ſee what lands will clearly appear to be in his Majeſty's poſſeſſion; and ſome further time to make diſcoveries by other ways and means; after which, ſuch a commiſſion as is mentioned will be neceſſary, that there may be a final ſettlement of all intereſts.

I do not well know what is like to become of the matter of Eſſex-houſe, but hope it may yet be retrieved. His Majeſty's letter for the grant of the money intended for the purchaſe thereof, is come,

and

and I have by this packet returned a letter of thanks through my lord treaſurer's hands. Mr. Cratford, whom I employ in this bargain, will communicate his proceedings with your lordſhip, whom I have found ſo ready to do me kindneſſes of all ſorts, as I doubt not but you will give him your aſſiſtance, and the helps of your advice in this particular. I am,

Your lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,
ESSEX.

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To Mr. Secretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, Mar. 17, 1674-5.

I AM to acknowledge two of yours of the 6th and 9th of March, both which I received the laſt week. I give you thanks for aſſiſting mr. ſollitor in his pretenſions here. The biſhop of Killaloe being lately dead, I have herewith ſent you the draft of a letter for placing that biſhoprick upon Dr. Roan, at preſent dean of Clogher. He is a very grave man, of good life, and one every way qualified to be a biſhop: wherefore if you pleaſe to get the letter diſpatched, I ſhall take it as a kindneſs. This city continues ſtill uneaſy to one another, but 'till the judges return from their circuits, I can take no poſſitive reſolution what is fit to be done in that matter, which, ſo ſoon as they do, I ſhall communicate to you. I am,

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,
ESSEX.

This biſhoprick of Killaloe is the loweſt of value in the whole kingdom.

To Sir Henry Capel.

Dear Brother, Dublin Caſtle, Mar. 17, 1674-5.

I Have received yours of the 9th inſtant, wherein you mention a requeſt of ſome friends of my lord chief juſtice Povey; but, by the circumſtances of it, I am apt to think you may miſtake, and that you mean my lord chief juſtice Booth. You ſay he is an old man and very infirm, and therefore, 'till I know which it is you intend, I cannot tell how to write ſuch an anſwer as will be proper to be ſhewed; for according to the ſeveral perſons each deſerves his ſeveral character, and the thing itſelf its different conſideration. If it be my lord chief juſtice Booth, he is the ableſt man in his profeſſion we have here, and is as good a judge, and in all reſpects as worthy a man as I have ever known; but is ſo miſerably afflicted with the gout and other diſeaſes, as makes him ſeldom fit to do any buſineſs; and that cauſes me to believe he may be the man. Knowing alſo, that he hath an inclination to continue in England, which if it be, we have another, mr. juſtice Reynell, tho' one of the King's bench, that may well ſucceed him, and is, indeed, next himſelf, the ableſt of all the judges. My lord chief juſtice Povey is as honeſt a man as any I know, but not equal in ability to the other. My apprehenſions are, if he ſhould be removed, by the ſollicitations of any of his friends in England, (nor can I think of any he hath, but mr. Povey, who, I ſuppoſe, muſt work by the duke) that mr. juſtice Jones, who is the eldeſt juſtice in the King's bench, will at the ſame time, by the duke's means, get a letter to be made chief juſtice, which would be a very great miſchief to this kingdom. Mr. juſtice

Jones

Jones purchaſed hard for it in the laſt vacancy, and I had ſome difficulty to get in another. He hath all the popiſh intereſt earneſt for him, being undoubtedly of that perſuaſion in his heart, and brings up all his children in that religion. Theſe things you are to keep to yourſelf. My lord chief juſtice Povey being in the circuit, I cannot ſpeak to him, nor rectify the miſtake, if there be any: therefore I pray you by the next let me hear from you who the perſon is you intend, and who they are that recommend him.

I am,
Your moſt affectionate brother.

ESSEX.

To Sir George Hamilton.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, Mar. 17, 1674-5.

I Have lately received two letters from you, delivered me by your brother, who is now gone into the country, and I hope will carefully diſpatch the buſineſs he comes about. I have directed him to be cautious in his proceedings, there being many watchful eyes, who are ſo buſy as to give notice of every thing that is done here. What reaſonable connivance may be permitted, ſhall be allowed him; and I ſhould be glad of any further opportunity of ſhewing the reſpect wherewith I am,

Your moſt faithful ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Hugh May.

Couſin, Dublin Caſtle, Mar. 17, 1674-5.

MR. Edward May, your kinſman, now taking a journey into England, I could not let him go without telling you how good a man I find him to be. At my firſt coming over I recommended him to the farmers of Cork-houſe for ſome employment under them, which he has ſo well performed, as they all give him the character of a very honeſt man, and juſt in their ſervice. If now, upon renewing of the farm, it lies in my way to do him a good turn, by deſiring them to put him in ſome better place, or any other means he can propoſe, I ſhall not fail to ſhew him my kindneſs therein, both upon his own account, as believing him a fit perſon to be employed, and alſo in regard of the relation he has to you, which ſhall ever be reſpected by,

Your moſt affectionate kinſman,
and faithful ſervant,

ESSEX.

To my lord Maſſereen.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Mar. 20, 1674-5

I Have received three of your letters, the laſt dated the 17th of March, which gives me an account of my lord Donegall's illneſs, and yeſterday in the evening, by a meſſenger from the place I had notice of his death. As to what relates to the tories, Mr. Beecher gave your lordſhip an anſwer, that if they would enter into ſufficient ſecurity for their good behaviour

haviour for ſome little time, till they could tranſport themſelves, which ſecurity your lordſhip was to approve of, and tranſmit to the clerk of the council here; and that in caſe they failed of performance, thoſe who were bound for them might be proſecuted. Whereunto was added, as my lord chief juſtice's opinion, that if the men would be perſuaded to come in, and render themſelves to a trial, they being aſſured of tranſportation, ſhould they be condemned, his lordſhip believed it to be the better courſe. Either of theſe two ways you might purſue. My ſecretary, Mr. Harbord, is ſhortly going for England, and I ſhall not forget, when he goes over, to recommend your caſe concerning the 1000l. paid to Sir Samuel Morland, which I make no queſtion to get allowed him: and as for the reducing of your quit-rent, I ſhall in a ſhort time receive inſtructions to ſettle that whole affair, and then your particular ſhall not want its due conſideration. I am,

Your lordſhip's moſt affectionate ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Mr. ſecretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, Mar. 30, 1675.

I Have received yours, dated from Newmarket the 17th inſtant, which begins with the intelligence you have from abroad. This part ſeems very miſterious, ſo as I cannot tell well what to make of it; but I will be watchful, and try by ſeveral ways what I can diſcover thereof. Sir Maurice Euſtace's petition I have ſent to Mr. Attorney, that himſelf and Mr. Sollicitor, who ſeem to be complained of therein,

therein, may conſult what anſwer to give, which I ſhall tranſmit ſo ſoon as it comes to my hands.

This packet brought us in the ſad news of the loſs of his Majeſty's yatch in its voyage to Cheſter, being ſplit upon a little rock called the Skerries: it was very full of paſſengers, and many men of quality; my lord of Meath is ſaid to be loſt, and his ſon, my lord Brabaſon, ſuppoſed to be ſo too. My lord of Ardglaſs, with ſeveral others, ſaved themſelves upon the rock, where they were a day and a night before any veſſel arrived to relieve them. This firſt account is but imperfect, ſo as we are not certain how many may be ſaved. The captain of this veſſel ſeemed to be as careful a man as I have ever known: we hear that himſelf and moſt of his ſeamen are drowned.

About ten days ſince the earl of Donegal died here: I have given his troop to ſir Arthur Chicheſter, who was lieutenant thereof, and is now earl of Donegal. Having nothing further to acquaint you with, I remain,

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Ranelagh.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, Mar. 30, 1675.

I Have received yours of the 23d of March, together with the letter in Mr. Sollicitor's behalf, and give you thanks for your care of him in this affair. I ſhould be glad that the forms of paſſing lands or monies here, were intirely ſettled, that ſo we might keep to known rules in buſineſs of that nature: for I find many men very uneaſy, who bring

bring letters, and have not the ſucceſs they expected; and I am confident, that when the rule you mention is eſtabliſhed, unreaſonable grants will not be ſo eaſily obtained. The commiſſion for reducing of quit-rents has not been forgotten by me; but, upon examination, finding that ſome other lands deſerve abatements, as well as thoſe in the liſt brought in by capt. Stone, I am adjuſting the matter for the whole: for I would fain have the work compleatly done, and that the King may have a proſpect of what the abatements will be, before the commiſſions are ſent over. However, I am well aſſured, that the lands which would be diſcovered by the books mr. Taylor is preparing, together with ſuch others as may be brought into charge upon the ſettling of Conaught, will more than make up the abatements: and beſides, the revenue will likewiſe by theſe means be rendered certain for the future. A very few days will compleat the enquiry I am to make, and by mr. Harbord, who goes the next week, I hope to ſend more particulars of this buſineſs.

The biſhop of Killaloe being lately dead, I have recommended mr. dean Roan, a very grave man, and one who has the repute from all here to be very deſerving, to ſucceed in that place. I am told, that mr. Smith, dean of Limerick, is endeavouring, by my lord of Ormond, to get into this biſhoprick. This hint I ſend you, that you may enquire if it be true; and I doubt not but your lordſhip will uſe your endeavours that I be not baffled in a thing of this nature. Some of my letters from England tell me, that the city have petitioned the King that the garden of Eſſex-houſe may not be permitted to be built into tenements. I preſume the law to be very clear in the point, that without his Majeſty's licence it cannot

cannot be done; ſo as I make little doubt but doctor Barebone will be forced to give over his work there, which if he do, I ſhall give order to lay down 30000 l. the money contracted for, within a very few days, a great part whereof is now ready, and at mr. Harbord's arrival he will take care for the reſt. I find it neceſſary to trouble your lordſhip again with this affair, in regard I doubt ſome in England have reported that I would not give ſo much: but ſince his Majeſty is graciouſly pleaſed to beſtow that ſum for this end, I ſhall lay down the money immediately, and wait the time for the repayment thereof: yet if your lordſhip conceives any thing can be ſaved to the King by making this bargain, (for I am reſolved to beſtow the whole of his Majeſty's liberality here) I am not unwilling it ſhould be done; whereof if you pleaſe to give yourſelf the trouble to ſpeak to mr. Thinne once more upon this ſubject, and aſſure him of my ſpeedy payment, in caſe the houſe be free for me to have it, your lordſhip will do me a great favour. Before this arrives, I preſume you will have the news from Cheſter, or other places, of the loſs of the yatch belonging to us here. We are not certain who periſhed in it, but it is believed my lord Meath and his ſon, my lord Atherdee, with many others, are drowned.

I am your Lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To

To the Lord Ranelagh.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, April 7, 1675.

YEſterday I received yours of the 30th of March, being the firſt packet arrived here ſince the loſs of the yatch, whereby we underſtand who periſhed and who were ſaved, which, I conceive, I need not repeat, for the particulars you will have from the coaſt on that ſide.

As to Eſſex-houſe, it will depend, your lordſhip's tells me, on that point, whether the King can prohibit the building on new foundations. This hath in all former times been taken for granted: yet, however, I am ſorry that a concern of mine ſhould occaſion a diſpute of the King's prerogative. The ſpoil of the garden cannot be much material, in regard a little money will, I am confident, put it in order, ſo as that ſhall not hinder me from purſuing my intention, in caſe this bargain with Dr. Barebone be vacated.

My lord Conway comes to town this night, and parts ſpeedily into England. I ſhall with him diſcourſe the two propoſals in your lordſhip's letter concerning the Concordatum monies and penſions; and upon theſe, together with other particulars, I ſhall communicate my thoughts to you through his hands. The French recruits have had ill fortune; for tho' the officers did their parts perfectly well, in bringing them to a remote corner of Kerry without noiſe; yet the French ſhips that were appointed to take them in, failing many days, and when they did come, which was twenty days after their time, inſtead of coming to Dingle, came to Kinſale, and there divulged in the town that they came to fetch men for the ſervice of France;

France, ſo as the officers finding the thing grow too publick, have themſelves as I hear diſmiſſed moſt of their men, I gave them all connivance that poſſibly I could, ſeeming not to believe the news for a packet or two, but at laſt when it was too much the publick diſcourſe, I was forced to ſend orders to diſmiſs any of them that ſhould be found in that country. And as theſe orders will be juſtification enough, that theſe levies were not permitted by authority, ſo I am ſure on the other hand the very officers themſelves will clear me to his Majeſty that I have allowed them all the fair play in their buſineſs that with decency they could expect, and that the diſappointment proceeded purely from the errors committed by the commanders of the French ſhips.

I am, your lordſhip's,
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the King.

Dublin Caſtle, April 8. 1675.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

THE yatch which uſually attended this place, being now unfortunately loſt, will neceſſitate your Majeſty to ſend ſome other veſſel to ſupply this want; it ought to draw but little water, in regard that every ebb the ſhips in this harbour lye all dry upon a hard ſand. The Mary yatch that is now periſhed, was very crazy when ſhe was caſt away, and indeed too weak built for theſe ſeas; therefore I humbly deſire your Majeſty would be pleaſed to let us have a veſſel that may be fit for this employment,

ployment, there being many perſons of quality often paſſing between this and England. Mr. Harbord is ſo fully inſtructed in all matters concerning this country, that I need not entertain your Majeſty with any thing upon that ſubject, but ſhall leave them to his relation, and with all humility and devotion ſubſcribe myſelf,

Your Majeſty's moſt faithful and moſt
obedient ſubject and ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Earl of Briſtol.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, April 8, 1675.

WITH much ſatisfaction have I received your lordſhip's moſt obliging letter, which acquaints me with the diſcourſe your lordſhip hath lately had with his Majeſty concerning the reports of my remove from this government, and tho' your lordſhip is a perſon whom I have ever looked upon to be ſo true and juſt a friend, that if I heard nothing from you, I could with all confidence rely upon your readineſs to do me all kind offices, yet, I do aſſure your lordſhip, that the knowing you have expreſſed a concern for me is extremely pleaſing to me, there being none whoſe affection I more value than your lordſhip's, nor whom I ſhould be more ready to ſerve when any opportunity ſhall arrive to evidence the reality of my being,

Your lordſhip's moſt faithful
and moſt humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, April 8, 1675.

MR. Harbord going over, I have entruſted him with ſeveral things relating to this country, to be communicated to your lordſhip, and among other matters, there are two which ſeem a little extraordinary, and that your lordſhip may be more clearly informed of them. I have ſtated the ſeveral caſes, and ſubſcribed theſe with my name: the one is a concern of my lord Maſſereen's for the payment of 1000 l. to ſir Samuel Moreland, which money I am fully ſatisfied he did really diſburſe upon his Majeſty's letter, and tho' it be hard that the King muſt pay it over again out of his own money, only becauſe the perſons intruſted with the revenue here, did not timely ſtate their accounts and paſs them: yet ſince this lord is really out of ſo much money by his Majeſty's commands, I do not think his Majeſty's favour intended to him, miſapplied. The other concerns mr. Corker, wherein there ſeems to be a very foul practice to defraud his Majeſty, and this with the concurrence of a perſon of conſiderable quality; the thing is known to many people in this country by common fame, but that would not ſatisfy me, and therefore I took ſeveral examinations upon oath, copies whereof are herewith tranſmitted to your lordſhip. There are many other letters for grants and other matters, within the compaſs of my private inſtructions, which mr. Harbord will preſent your lordſhip with, and I ſhall attend your lordſhip's ſenſe upon them before I proceed further. I did lately ſend over to mr. ſecretary Coventry a copy of a proclamation prepared here, for the raiſing the value of ſome ſorts of Portugal money. I do not well know whether this

this might not more properly come to your lordſhip, in regard the mint and all belonging to it is under your charge. If I am miſtaken in the addreſs, it was purely inadvertency, and indeed had I recollected myſelf, I ſhould at leaſt have given your lordſhip notice of the buſineſs, but having many other affairs at that time to diſpatch, it was clearly out of my thoughts, beſides I did conceive a thing of this nature would of courſe have been communicated to the council, where it would have been known to all the privy counſellors.

One want we have here, which if not ſupplied, the kingdom cannot remain in ſecurity, and that is powder, the ſtock was very low when I came over, and that little that was, periſhed powder; and ſince my arrival, which is two years and a half, I have only received 500 barrels. The ordinary expence for exerciſing the army, &c. as now it is, amounts to 290 barrels yearly. I have made them ſpend the periſhed powder for their training, and preſerved the new which is good. I muſt confeſs I do not well know where to find money for this occaſion: but methinks a thing of ſo much moment as this ſhould not be ſcrupled at, tho' a little money were lent out of the Engliſh revenue, till it could be repaid out of the Iriſh, for doubtleſs his Majeſty will not think it reaſonable to run a hazard of this kingdom upon any unfortunate accident, which may coſt ſome hundred thouſands of pounds to recover again, only for the want of three or four thouſand pounds worth of powder. Mr. Harbord will ſhew your lordſhip an abſtract at what low ebb the ſtores are; I have likewiſe writ to the maſter of the ordnance upon the ſame ſubject, and indeed I cannot but be a little earneſt

in a thing of this nature where there is a poſſibility of ſo miſchievous a conſequence.

I am, with perfect truth,
Your lordſhip's moſt humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

A ſtate of the caſe concerning the ſum of 1000 l. by his Majeſty's letters of the 17th July 1674, ordered to be allowed the earl of Orrery and lord Maſſereen, as paid by them by virtue of former letters from his Majeſty to ſir Samuel Moreland.

BY the Declaration and act of Settlement, the ſoldiers were to pay to the King half a years value, and the adventurers a years value of their lands, towards the relief and reparations of the loſſes of ſuch as the King ſhould judge to have acted and ſuffered for him.

The earl of Orrery, and the late lord Maſſereen were made receivers of this money, who were to pay what they ſhould receive to the vice treaſurer by whom the ſame was to be iſſued out to ſuch perſons as the King ſhould direct. The King granted ſeveral letters for payment of divers great ſums of money out of this fund, which did very far exceed the money that came in thereupon, and among others, by his letters dated the 23d of March 1664, directed 1000 l. to be paid out thereof to ſir Samuel Moreland. By the act of explanation paſſed about October 1665, this years value and half years value is diſcharged, and a year's rent appointed to be paid by all adventurers, ſoldiers and others, which if it ſhould fall ſhort of 300000 l. it was to be made up ſo much by a tax upon the whole kingdom, of which

30000 l.

300000 l. the ſum paſſed upon the former fund of the years value and half years value were to be part.

The laſt 100000 l. of this 300000 l. is by the act ordered to be iſſued to ſuch perſons as his Majeſty had appointed the ſame, as a reward of their ſervices and ſufferings; and in the firſt place, towards the payment of the ſum of money appointed to be paid to the duke of Ormond, or ſo much thereof as was in arrear.

What was paid upon any letters of the King out of the firſt fund of the year's value and half year's value before the paſſing of the explanatory act was regular, but after the explanatory act paſſed, no money could be regularly paid upon the King's letters out of that fund, becauſe what remained then due upon ſuch letters from the King, was to be paid out of the laſt 100000 l. whereof about 52000 l. having been received, and iſſued out upon the firſt act, there remained 48000 l. more thereof to be received, out of which the duke of Ormond was to be firſt paid what was due to him, being above 48000 l. which he hath ſince aſſigned to the King, and is more than all that will come in of that laſt 100000 l. will ſatisfy, ſo that there was no room left for any of thoſe letters from the King, to come in for any ſhare of that money, after the paſſing of the explanatory act. The lord Maſſereen produceth acquittances for the ſaid ſum of 1000 l. by his Majeſty's ſaid letters of the 23d of March 1664, ordered to be paid to ſir. Samuel Moreland, which ſum hath never yet been paſſed upon any account to his Majeſty; and the earl of Orrery and the lord Maſſereen do ſtill remain chargeable to his Majeſty for the ſame. Whereupon his Majeſty by his letters dated the 17th of July 1674 hath ordered me to examine

whether the ſaid ſum was really and actually paid to ſir Samuel Moreland as was alledged, and in caſe the ſame ſhould appear by acquittances to be produced, then to give orders for allowance thereof, and in caſe ſuch allowance ſhall entitle the commiſſioners of the treaſury to a defalcation, then to allow the ſame to them upon their accounts, hereupon I have examined the matter, and am ſatisfied that the late lord Maſſereen really paid the 1000 l. mentioned in the King's letter to ſir Samuel Moreland, but when it was paid doth not plainly appear; and tho' ſome acquittances were produced for ſeveral ſums part of the ſaid 1000 l. dated in 1665 a little before the paſſing the explanatory act, yet the acquittance for this 1000 l. that is entered in the auditor general's office, bears date the 20th of February 1666, and the ſame was never yet paſſed in any account, and I do not ſee how the ſame can now be regularly placed upon account of that laſt 100000 l. which by the explanatory act was otherwiſe diſpoſed of, ſo that the lord Maſſereen having paid this money without procuring any exchequer acquittance for the ſame, as he might and ought to have done if he had regularly paid it; the earl of Orrery and he are ſtill, in ſtrictneſs of law, chargeable for the ſame to the King, and this 1000 l. is legally due from them to the lord Ranalagh and his partners; but if the King in conſideration that the ſaid money was really and *bona fide* paid to ſir Samuel Moreland upon his Majeſty's letter, his Majeſty ſhall be pleaſed to diſcharge the earl of Orrery and lord Maſſereen thereof, then the lord Ranalagh and his partners are to have a defalcation for ſo much from his Majeſty, and the ſaid 1000 l. is not to be placed as any of thoſe payments,

towards

towards ſatisfaction whereof that laſt 100000 l. was deſigned. By his Majeſty's ſaid letters on the earl of Orrery's and lord Maſſereen's behalf, I am ſufficiently authorized to order allowance to be given to them of this money, and to allow my lord Ranelagh and his partners defalcations for it, which I ſhall do, unleſs upon view of this ſtate of the caſe ſome direction ſhall come to the contrary.

ESSEX.

A ſtate of the caſe concerning ſums of money, by his Majeſty's letters of the 27th of January 1674, ordered to be allowed to ſir Richard Bellingham.

SIR Richard Bellingham having by his petition informed the King, that his father ſir Daniel Bellingham being deputy to the earl of Orrery and lord Maſſereen, who are receivers of the year's value and half year's value, by the declaration made payable to the King by adventurers and ſoldiers; and being alſo at the ſame time deputy to the earl of Angleſey, (who was the vice treaſurer of Ireland) he the ſaid ſir Daniel Bellingham, as deputy to the earl of Angleſey, had omitted to charge himſelf with ſeveral ſums of money amounting to 4208 l. 15 s. 3d. which he has, as deputy to the earl of Orrery and lord Maſſereen, paid into the treaſury, for want whereof the earl of Orrery and lord Maſſereen cannot be diſcharged of thoſe ſums upon their accounts, altho' ſir Daniel Bellingham had paid the ſame by his Majeſty's and the lord lieutenant's orders, in manner following:

To the counteſs of Portland in part of 1000 l. by his Majeſty's letters of the 15th of February 1663, ordered to be paid to her out of the year's value

Payable by adventurers and ſoldiers, the ſum of two hundred and ſixteen pounds ſterl. To the lord Shannon in part of 1000 l. by his Majeſty's letters of the 1ſt of March 1663; ordered to be paid him out of the ſame fund, the ſum of 22 l. And to the earl of Orrery and lord Maſſereen 1220 l. 15 s. 3 d. upon an account of their fees of 6 d. per pound due to them by their patent, as receivers of the year's value, (payable to them by warrant of the then lord lieutenant, dated the 20th of March 1662) to the earl of Roſcommon in part of 350 l. by his Majeſty's letters of the 17th of March 1663, ordered to be paid out of the ſame fund the ſum of 2750 l. All the ſaid ſums amounting to the ſaid ſum of 4208 l. 15 s. 3 d.

His Majeſty thereupon by his letters bearing date the 27th of January 1674, was pleaſed to order me to examine the ſaid matter, and finding the ſaid payments to have been made in manner above ſpecified, to cauſe allowance to be made thereof, or of ſo much part thereof, as ſhall appear to have been ſo paid and diſcharged by the ſaid ſir Daniel Bellingham. Whereupon I have together with ſome others of his Majeſty's commiſſioners of accounts, by examination of witneſſes upon oath, and by other ſuch ways as I could beſt inform myſelf, inquired into the ſtate of that matter, and do find: That his Majeſty by his letters patent under the great ſeal of England, bearing date the 1ſt of October 1662, did appoint the earl of Orrery, and the late lord viſcount Maſſereen to be receivers of the year's value and half year's value, that by the Declaration was payable by adventurers and ſoldiers to his Majeſty, who were to pay over all ſuch monies as they ſhould receive, to his Majeſty's vice treaſurer of this kingdom, and were to have for their pains 6 d. per pound out of all monies that they or

their

their agents ſhould receive and pay over to the vice treaſurer.

The earl of Orrery and lord Maſſereen appointed Sir Daniel Bellingham to be their deputy in the ſaid office, who was alſo at the ſame time deputy to the earl of Angleſey in the vice treaſurer's office. By the explanatory act paſſed there about October 1665, this fund of the year's value was wholly diſcharged, and a year's rent made payable by adventurers and ſoldiers, which was to amount to 300000 l. or to be made up ſo much by a general tax upon the whole kingdom, whereof the monies received by the earl of Orrery and the lord Maſſereen out of the year's value and half year's value, payable by the declaration, was to be reckoned to be part, and other receivers were by the explanatory act appointed to the care of what ſhould be raiſed thereupon, and the uſes are particularly mentioned in the ſaid act whereunto the ſaid money was to be applied, ſo that after the paſſing of the explanatory act, no monies received upon the ſaid former year's value and half year's value, could be regularly paid to the former uſes, whereunto the firſt year's value and half year's value were appointed, but only in ſuch manner as by the explanatory act is directed. The earl of Orrery and lord Maſſereen do now ſtand charged to the King, with the above mentioned ſum of 4208 l. 15 s. 3 d. or thereabouts, as received by them out of the ſaid year's value and half year's value, whilſt they continued receivers thereof, over and above what they paid into the treaſury, from which charge ſir Daniel Bellingham being their deputy, was bound by recognizance to ſave them harmleſs, which he endeavoured to do by getting thoſe ſums above mentioned which he pretends to have been paid by him,

allowed in diſcharge of the ſaid debt due to the King; but I do not find that any of the ſums mentioned in his Majeſty's ſaid letter have been yet paſſed in any account to his Majeſty.

And as to the ſaid ſum of 12201. 15s. 3d. pretended to have been paid by the ſaid ſir Daniel Bellingham to the earl of Orrery and lord Maſſereen for their fees, I find that the fees due for all the money received upon that fund of the year's value and half year's value, whilſt they continued receivers thereof, did amount to about that ſum of 12201. 15s. 3d. and the duke of Ormond, then lord lieutenant of this kingdom, by his warrant dated the 20th of March 1662, did order the vice-treaſurer to allow and pay to the earl of Orrery and lord Maſſereen their fees of 6d. per pound, out of all monies that ſhould be paid into the treaſury by them; upon which warrant the lord Maſſereen that now is, gave an acquittance, without date, endorſed on the ſaid warrant, acknowledging to have received thereupon the ſaid ſum of 12201. 15s. 3d. for the earl of Orrery and himſelf, in right of the late lord Maſſereen, as by the ſaid warrant and acquittance produced before me doth appear. And as to the ſum of 2161. pretended to have been paid to the counteſs of Portland, I find that his Majeſty, by his letters bearing date the 5th of February 1663, did grant to the ſaid counteſs the ſum of 47401. to be paid out of the ſaid year's value and half year's value, and did direct the earl of Angleſey, then vice-treaſurer, to make payment thereof; and it appears by certificate ſigned by ſir Robert Viner, now lord mayor of London, and atteſted by a publick notary, and bearing date the 16th of March 1673, that he paid to the ſaid counteſs, upon the account of ſir Daniel Bellingham, in

the

the year 1663, the ſum of 216l. and likewiſe by affidavit of mr. Edward Corker, that the ſaid ſum was allowed upon account by ſir Daniel Bellingham to ſir Robert Vyner, as paid in the year 1663. Both theſe ſums above mentioned, ſeem to have been paid before the paſſing of the explanatory act, and ſo were regularly paid, and ought to have been allowed to ſir Daniel Bellingham, in caſe the ſaid warrants and acquittances had been in due time produced by him, upon paſſing his accounts, which by his careleſsneſs (as is pretended) was then omitted; and it may, as I conceive, be reaſonable now to allow the ſaid ſums unto him, in caſe his Majeſty ſhall not think fit to take advantage of that omiſſion. And in ſuch caſe the lord Ranelagh, &c. ought to have a defalcation for the ſame, in regard the ſaid ſums were really due to his Majeſty, at the time of their making their contract with his Majeſty; and the ſaid ſir Daniel Bellingham cannot any otherwiſe than by his Majeſty's favour be diſcharged thereof. And as to the ſum of 22l. pretended to have been paid to my lord Shannon, I find that his Majeſty, by his letters bearing date the 10th of January 1662, did grant to the ſaid lord Shannon the ſum of 1000l. to be paid out of the ſaid year's value and half year's value; and it appears by his lordſhip's acquittance, bearing date the 11th of December 1667, and by his letter to the commiſſioners of accounts, that the ſaid ſir Daniel Bellingham did pay unto him the ſaid ſum of 22l. in part of the ſaid warrant for 1000l. And altho' I am apt to believe the ſaid 22l. was really paid, yet the ſaid money being paid after the paſſing of the explanatory act, when the fund out of which the ſame was appointed to be paid, was diſcharged, the ſaid ſir Daniel Bellingham had no warrant then for payment thereof;

thereof; neither ought the ſaid ſum to have been allowed to the ſaid ſir Daniel Bellingham upon any of his accounts, in caſe the ſame upon paſſing thereof had been produced.

And as to the ſum of 2750l. pretended to have been paid to the earl of Roſcommon, I find that his Majeſty, by his letters bearing date the 6th of June 1662, did grant to the ſaid earl of Roſcommon the ſum of 5000l. to be paid to him out of the year's value and half year's value, whereof the ſaid earl received the ſum of 1250l. which was paſſed upon the earl of Angleſey's accounts; and afterwards his Majeſty, by his other letters, bearing date the 17th of March 1663, did order the remaining ſum of 3750l. to be paid to the ſaid earl out of the year's value and half year's value, on the margin of which letter there is a receipt under the ſaid earl's hand, without any date, acknowledging the receipt of 2750l. upon account of that letter: but I being doubtful whether the ſaid ſum was really paid, I examined ſeveral witneſſes upon oath concerning the payment thereof, and among others, one William Howes, agent to the ſaid earl of Roſcommon's troop, who declared, that about the year 1670 or 1671, he did treat with the ſaid ſir Daniel Bellingham deceaſed, concerning the balance of an account which was then depending between the earl of Roſcommon and ſir Daniel Bellingham, whereupon he believed the ſaid earl was then indebted to the ſaid ſir Daniel Bellingham in the ſum of four hundred or five hundred pounds; and that the ſaid ſir Daniel Bellingham did then propoſe and offer to the ſaid William Howes, (ſuppoſing him to be intruſted with the management of the earl's concerns) to pay unto the ſaid earl of Roſcommon the ſum of five hundred pounds in money;

ney, and to diſcharge the ſaid former account, in full ſatisfaction and payment of what was owing to the ſaid earl by virtue of his Majeſty's ſaid letter for 3750l. And that in 1672 the ſaid ſir Daniel Bellingham did further propoſe and offer unto the ſaid William Howes, about the time of the ſaid earl's going into France, to give and pay to him for the uſe of the ſaid earl, the ſum of 500l. and likewiſe to clear and diſcharge the ſaid earl of all former accounts, ſo as the ſaid earl would aſſign over to him the benefit of his Majeſty's grant; with which offer the ſaid William Howes acquainted the ſaid earl, who then refuſed to accept thereof: and that he believes that ſince that time the ſaid earl hath made ſome contract or bargain for the ſame with ſir Richard Bellingham, ſon and heir of the ſaid ſir Daniel Bellingham; and believes alſo it was in and for the conſideration of the ſum of 500l. in regard the ſaid earl told him, the ſaid William Howes, that the ſaid ſir Richard Bellingham was indebted to him the ſum of 500l. and that as ſoon as he ſhould receive the ſame, the ſaid William Howes ſhould have 100l. in part ſatisfaction of what was owing to him for his ſalary, and that the other 400l. was deſigned to be paid to mr. Thomas Hackett of Dublin, merchant, to diſcharge a mortgage upon the ſaid earl's eſtate, owing to one lieutenant Wade.

And the ſaid Thomas Hackett being alſo examined upon oath, declared, that the earl of Roſcommon being in Dublin about a year ſince, and diſcourſing with him the ſaid Thomas Hackett concerning a mortgage one lieutenant Wade had upon part of the ſaid earl's eſtate, told him, the ſaid Thomas Hackett, that he had given order and direction for the clearing of it by mr. Edward Corker. And the ſaid Edward Corker,

Corker, who is brother in law and agent to the ſaid ſir Richard Bellingham, being alſo examined upon oath, declared, that he hath heard that the ſaid earl of Roſcommon did expect to have received 400 l. of ſir Richard Bellingham, and that the ſame was to have been paid to mr. Thomas Hackett; but that he the ſaid Edward Corker never made any ſuch contract or bargain with the ſaid earl, neither was the ſaid 400 l. overpaid, but that the original letter for payment of 3750 l. to the ſaid earl, was found among ſir Daniel's Bellingham's papers at the time of his death.

And one mr. Jeremy Hall being alſo examined upon oath, declared, that about a year and half or two years ſince, diſcourſing with William Howes about the ſaid 3750 l. payment to the ſaid earl of Roſcommon, he told the ſaid William Howes, that he heard the ſaid William Howes, or the ſaid earl, had made an agreement about the ſaid warrant; to which the ſaid William Howes anſwered, yes; and that he thought it was a good agreement, for that 500 l. was better than nothing. And he alſo, about five or ſix months ſince, aſking mr. Thomas Hackett whether the four hundred pounds, owing by the ſaid earl to lieutenant Wade, was paid? he anſwered, No; but that mr. Corker was to pay my lord Roſcommon 500 l. out of which lieutenant Wade was to have 400 l. and mr. Howes was to have the other 100 l.

And Thomas Taylor, comptroller of the treaſury under the lord Ranelagh, &c. being alſo examined concerning the ſaid matter, declared, that in the year 1669 he was deputy-receiver to ſir George Cotterell, then vice-treaſurer of Ireland, and that he remembers to have ſeen a copy of a letter from his Majeſty

for

for the payment of a certain ſum of money to the earl of Roſcommon, to be paid out of the half year's value; and that the payment thereof being propoſed unto him the ſaid Thomas Taylor, he refuſed to make good the ſame, without a particular direction for that purpoſe from the ſaid ſir George Cotterell, there being no fund for the ſame.

Upon all which, I am not ſatisfied that the ſaid 2750l. was ever really paid to the ſaid earl of Roſcommon; and that if the ſame had been paid, yet it was paid many years after paſſing the explanatory act, when the fund out of which it was appointed to be paid was diſcharged: and the ſaid ſir Daniel Bellingham had no legal warrant for the payment thereof to the ſaid earl, nor can reaſonably be thought to have ventured the payment of ſo great a ſum, without any warrant or authority to juſtify the payment thereof.

ESSEX.

To Sir Thomas Chichley.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, April 8, 1675.

I Had ſooner returned an anſwer to yours of the 28th of January, which came to my hands the 27th of February, had not the journey of my ſecretary mr. Harbord been ſo near, as to give me the conveniency of ſending it by him, who may alſo clear ſome things by diſcourſe, in caſe the remarks I have put in the margin to each particular in the paper, be not ſufficiently explained. The expence will be conſiderable to repair or new build the ſeveral ſtore-houſes in each garriſon, they being, as you obſerve, all of them ſo abſolutely ruinous; beſides, the conſtant charge

charge which is neceſſary to be ſpent within this office, viz. five thouſand pounds per annum, is, I fear, more than we ſhall get upon the new eſtabliſhment. Tho', for my own part, I think no money better laid out than this, yet I make no queſtion when we have a parliament here, which I hope may be within ſome reaſonable time, we ſhall then have a ſupply for ſo neceſſary a work. I muſt further tell you, that there is not one company of foot in the whole army, armed as they ought, ſo as indeed of neceſſity they muſt be all new armed throughout; but that which we moſt want, and indeed cannot be without, is ſome proviſion of powder, for our ſtores are now exceeding low.

Of theſe particulars mr. Harbord will diſcourſe with you at large; therefore I ſhall ſay no more at preſent, but remain with perfect truth,

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

Right Honourable,

ACcording to your honours orders and directions, concerning the ſtores and ammunition remaining in Ireland, and what is moſt fit to be done therein. I have examined the remainder taken by my ſon and Mr. Robinſon this laſt ſummer, and having diſcourſed the whole affair with them, I do humbly certify that the want is very great of all manner of ſtores, eſpecially of a good marching train of artillery, which an eſtabliſhed army cannot be without; and there will be a great quantity of arms and ammunition wanting in the publick ſtores and in the ſettled gariſons, which his Majeſty no doubt will cauſe to be

ſupplied

plied for the ſafety of that kingdom, as faſt as his revenue will admit. But before your honour can preſent any certainty thereof to his Majeſty, or thoſe proportions or eſtimates can be made (according as your honour has reſolved) you will pleaſe to acquaint his excellency the lord lieutenant of Ireland, and receive his judgment and opinion both as to the general ſupply of ſtores to the publick magazines and garriſons, as alſo to the particular annual repairs, and ſupplies and maintenance of the officers and under-officers of the ordnance, which, if your honour pleaſeth, may be comprized under theſe heads.

I. The places which are to be ſupplied with magazines of war, and the building and repairing ſtore-houſes there.

II. The quantity of guns and ammunition fit to be laid up in ſuch places.

III. The ſtores for the ſeveral garriſons, and what thoſe garriſons muſt be, and how many.

IV. The yearly ſupply of powder, arms and match, and how the ſame may beſt be done, and where, and how to be managed, ſo that the chief of the government of Ireland may know what is imported or exported.

V. The annual charge for repair of ſtore-houſes, garriſons, platforms, cleanſing of arms, &c.

VI. And laſtly, the charge of the officers and under-officers of the artillery, and the payments of the money for the whole expence.

Reſolutions on the foregoing heads.

To the firſt. Londonderry is a much fitter place for the ſtore of the province of Ulſter than Knockfergus.

It were alſo convenient there were one ſtore-houſe more at Athlone, it being the center of the kingdom, and of all others the moſt proper place to keep a ſtrong body of men conſtantly together.

To the ſecond. It is conceived, that one marching train of artillery may be ſufficient, and that to be at Dublin, conſiſting of twenty braſs guns, &c. as is here propoſed; which number of guns may be enough, in regard the people of this country are not ſo well ſkilled in affairs of war as in other places; and by experience of the laſt war it was found that a few field-pieces ſeemed very terrible to them, ſo as the expence of the other marching trains may be ſpared.

It's very convenient, and indeed neceſſary, that there were always a ſtore of 10000 arms at Dublin, and at Limerick, Galway, and Londonderry 1500 each, as alſo 2000 arms at Athlone.

To the third. Twenty guns ſeems too many for Carrickfergus, the place being much leſs conſiderable than is imagined in England; ten may be a competent number. Cork is omitted, which being the ſecond city of Ireland, and a port town, it were convenient there were alſo ten or fifteen guns mounted. It may likewiſe be obſerved by the map, that there is too great a tract of land in the north-weſt of Ireland left unprovided of any ſtanding garriſon, it being ſix

ſcore

ſcore Engliſh miles between Galway and Londonderry; and tho' there were many little forts built in that country by the Engliſh, it being very much of it a wild and boggy part, and inhabited by the moſt uncivilized Iriſh, which forts, in time of trouble, are liable to ſurprize; it may therefore be neceſſary for his Majeſty's ſervice, to ſlight them all, eſtabliſh one ſtrong garriſon in that country, for which purpoſe Sligo is conceived the moſt convenient place, where there are already ſeveral guns. If it be conceived too expenſive to have ſo many guns mounted here (provided there be the marching train in Dublin) they may beſt be ſpared in the towns following. Dublin will need no more than eight or ten for firing upon ſolemnities or feſtival days. Drogheda needs none but two or three for the like occaſion. Kilkenny the ſame. Cork the like: but in all the other places, as Waterford, Duncannon and Paſſage, Kinſale and Rincorian, Limerick, Galway, Athlone, Londonderry, Culmore, Carrickfergus, Charlemount and Sligo, they are abſolutely neceſſary.

To the fourth. See the eſtimate of the proportions of powder, match, and ball, as are allowed to the preſent army, which is ſomething too narrow a proportion. Match, cannon bullet, and leaden bullet, as alſo pikes, may be cheaper had in Ireland than from England. The law already here is, that no powder or arms be permitted to be landed or ſold in Ireland but by the lord lieutenant's licence. Some rules may be agreed upon with the maſter of the ordnance for the execution of this.

To the fifth. That there ought to be another ſtore-houſe built in Dublin is moſt neceſſary, as alſo,

that there were a better powder-houſe, but then it were convenient that thoſe ſtood within ſome fort or place that were defenſible; it being a ſhame to ſee the ſtores of a kingdom ſo liable to ſurprize as they are and have always been. If his Majeſty ſhould think fit to proceed in the deſign of building a fort-royal on the ſtrand near Ringſend, as was deſigned by P. Bernard de Goine, 'tis doubtleſs the only proper piece of ground where a fort can be built, ſo as to be relieved by ſea; but it is conceived, that for a ſtore of arms the ſea air will be very prejudicial: therefore it is offered to conſideration, whether a leſſer fort may not be built upon ſome advantageous place on the land, purpoſely to ſecure the ſtores and powder; in the mean time, that a ſtore-houſe be built on the ground in the Caſtle where the former ſtore-houſe ſtood in the lord Berkley's time; and that the new powder-houſe be fenced with a good wall of convenient height, with ſome flankers, as well as the place will bear; that three or four files of men may conſtantly lodge within to keep it from ſurprize.

Anſwer to the Reſolutions.

I. As to the firſt, your honour has formerly reſolved, that there ſhould be four places only for lodging the trains of artillery and ſtores of war for the four provinces, viz. Dublin, Limerick, Galway, and Knockfergus, or at ſuch places, as inſtead of any of thoſe, as his excellency and council in Ireland ſhall think moſt fit, as at Londonderry inſtead of Knockfergus; tho' the latter will be more convenient for his Majeſty's ſhipping to come to, and to be ſupplied with more ſpeed if need ſhould require.

II. That

II. That at Dublin there be a train of artillery, mounted and fit for ſervice, of twenty braſs guns, viz. ten for battery, and ten for the field, four mortar-pieces, and two petards, ten thouſand arms, and all other proviſions of war anſwerable to ſuch a train.

III. At Limerick, Galway, and Knockfergus (or at any ſuch other place as ſhall be thought moſt convenient, inſtead of any of thoſe) there be at each a marching train of ten braſs guns (whereof four for battery, and ſix for the field) two mortar-pieces, and two petards, with fifteen hundred arms and other proviſions anſwerable to ſuch a train; ſo that in all there may be fifty braſs pieces ready for ſervice, and may be had either already caſt in Ireland, or by new caſting if need be. There are remaining thirty-three places where ſome ſtores no ware, and formerly have been garriſons; but your honour will not think it is fit to maintain all thoſe, but will deſire his Excellency and council's opinion what are to be ſlighted, and what kept. The moſt conſiderable places your honour has had reported to you, and here is propoſed the names of places, and what great guns each place might have mounted, which his Excellency may alter as he pleaſeth, viz. At Dublin twenty guns to be mounted on ſtanding or ſhip carriages; at Drogheda ten, at Kilkenny ten, at Duncannon and Paſſage fifteen (whereof ten culverin, or bigger guns, to be ſent from London) at Kinſale fifteen, Rincorian thirty, Limerick fifteen, Galway thirty, Athlone ten, Londonderry and Culmore twenty, Carrickfergus twenty, Charlemount ten, in all two hundred and nineteen guns, which may moſt be had

in Ireland, but the carriages moſtly and gunners ſtores will be wanting.

By theſe guns (with your Excellency and your honour's approbation, after his Majeſty's pleaſure declared) there muſt be proportions and eſtimates drawn and made accordingly, to ſuch number of guns as ſhall be agreed on (having reſpect to the ſtores already in being) and the chief gunners at each place muſt indent for the ſame.

IV. There will require a yearly ſupply of powder and match for the army and garriſons, and for the whole kingdom of Ireland for his Majeſty's ſervice, in lieu of what ſhall be ſpent, and what ſhall decay. It would be very convenient that there ſhould be a ſtore-houſe and places thereto belonging built near Dublin, elſe the decayed powder muſt be ſent into England and changed, which the former would prevent. And to the end that his Excellency and future governors of Ireland ſhould always know what powder or arms there are received in or diſpoſed of to the ſubjects in Ireland, or otherwiſe; your honour will pleaſe to propoſe to his Excellency, that no powder or arms ſhall be ſold in Ireland, but ſuch as ſhall come from England (or arms made in Ireland) which ſhall be imported at no other places than Dublin, Knockfergus, Londonderry, Galway, Limerick, Kinſale, Cork and Waterford; and that his Excellency ſhall be informed at all times of the landing of the ſame, by the officers of the ordnance in Ireland, and not to be ſold but by his Excellency's order; with other rules to the cuſtom and officers of the ordnance, as his Excellency and your honour ſhall agree on.

V. Con-

V. Concerning the annual charges of repairs of ſtore-houſes, garriſons, platforms, cleaning of arms, carriages, &c. it cannot be aſcertained till ſuch time as it be reſolved what places and garriſons will be pitched on by his Excellency and your honour. The great ſtore-houſe of Dublin no doubt muſt be new built, and the powder-houſe repaired; and unleſs there be good care and annual repairs made to all the reſt of the ſtore-houſes and garriſons, all the proviſions aforeſaid will be loſt and ruined; and this having been utterly neglected formerly, is the only cauſe that there are ſuch great wants at this time. There will require 500 barrels of powder each year to be ſent into Ireland for the expence of the army and garriſons; ſo that I judge 5000l. per annum, will be the leaſt ſum that can be required for theſe purpoſes.

VI. Concerning the eſtabliſhment and preſent ſalaries of the officers of the ordnance and gunners, it is true, before my lord of Eſſex went into Ireland, your honour drew up ſuch propoſals as you thought fit to preſent to his Majeſty, and did reduce the ſalaries from 2177l. to near upon 1500l. per annum, but ſo that the overplus, viz. 677l. per annum, ſhould have been left free for encouraging thoſe that did well, paying travelling charges, and to have been employed in repairs of arms, &c, but my lord Ranelagh finding thoſe papers in ſir James Shaen's hands, reduced the ſalaries without any ſuch conſideration. And as for the money, whatſoever it ſhall be, your honour has declared, that if you may, you will have it in ſome good hands depoſited as it ſhall come due, ready to be paid to ſuch uſes as deſigned: and that therefore

there may be a treaſurer and paymaſter for that ſervice only, to receive and pay the monies according to orders, and for his pains and care to take 3d. in the pound at the moſt, which your honour will leave to his Excellency's approbation: and I believe ſuch a man may be had.

Theſe being the chief parts to be conſidered of, and wherein your honour will deſire his Excellency's judgment, and thereupon come to a reſolution, it will follow then, that your honour will propoſe ſuch rules and orders to his Majeſty, to be by him confirmed and eſtabliſhed, as may not only as well aſcertain the preſent eſtabliſhment for ſalaries (your honour having declared not to exceed the preſent 1500l. per annum) as the future government of the officers and members of the ordnance: all which I ſubmit to your honour's pleaſure, ever being

Your honour's
moſt obedient ſervant,

JONAS MOORE.

An

An ESTIMATE of one year's expence of powder, match, and ball, out of the ſeveral ſtores in Ireland to the army, according to the number of troops and companies, and other accidental occaſions. Anno 1674.

	Barrels of Powder.	Bundles Match.	Barrels of Balls.
To the life guard of horſe	4		4
To 24 Troops ——	24		24
To the royal regiment —	36	27	
To 74 companies of foot	148	296	148
To the gunners at Dublin, for firing the great guns on the 23d of April, 29th of May, and 23d of October —— —	18	1 half	
The great guns are uſually fired at the arrival of the chief governor at the death of any general officer, at feſtival days in divers garriſons round the kingdom, firing at ſhips not ſtriking at forts, and ſaluting of frigates, &c. alſo for extraordinary ſervice, ſuch as tories alarms, &c. all which is eſtimated at per annum —— ——	60	30	10
Total of one year's expence	290	398	186
		Tun hu.	Tun hu.
		9 & 199	& 6

To

To the King.

Dublin Caſtle, April 10, 1675.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

MY lord Conway, who preſents your Majeſty with this letter, is a perſon that underſtands this country well, and is very affectionate to your Majeſty's ſervice. He hath ſeveral things to acquaint your Majeſty with concerning affairs here, when your Majeſty ſhall pleaſe to give him an opportunity. I ſhall not, therefore, preſume to enumerate any particulars, but leave them to the account he ſhall give your Majeſty, and remain with all humility,

Your Majeſty's moſt faithful,
and moſt obedient ſubject and ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Mr. ſecretary Coventry

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, April 10, 1675.

THE laſt week I received advice of a veſſel come into a creek about twenty miles weſtward of Kinſale, which being vehemently ſuſpected to be ſtolen from the right owners, I immediately ſent down orders to Capt. London, commander of the Norwich frigate, to uſe his beſt endeavours to ſeize this ſhip, which he has ſince done, the particular circumſtances whereof the encloſed will inform you. She proves to be a ſhip of Hamburgh, laden in Holland, and bound for France; wherefore if you pleaſe to acquaint the ambaſſadors of Holland where

ſhe

ſhe is, that thoſe who have ſhares in her may ſend over to take care of the goods: the ordinary forms of reſtoring them ſhall be purſued. The encloſed will likewiſe make known to you how barbarouſly the perſons who are now in her have murthered the ſeamen, and this themſelves confeſs. I have conſulted his Majeſty's council, who tell me, that I need not a letter from England for the trial of them, but that a commiſſion of oyer and terminer may be iſſued of courſe, which ſhall be done. I am to acknowledge two of yours of the 30th of March, and 3d of April, and give you thanks for the letter in behalf of Mr. Dean Roan. I have alſo with the laſt of yours received his Majeſty's commands concerning the corporations, which I ſhall carefully purſue. The matter you mention to have been diſcourſed of in council, I have directed Mr. Harbord (who this day ſets ſail for England) to clear to you, and in the mean time I deſire you to continue the belief of my being with perfect truth and eſteem,

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, April 10, 1675.

MY lord Conway now going over, will eaſe your lordſhip of the trouble of a large letter from me, upon many particulars relating to this kingdom, the ſtate whereof his lordſhip ſo well knowing, and being a perſon really devoted to his Majeſty's ſervice, and one whom I have a great aſſurance of

his

his friendſhip and affection both to your lordſhip and myſelf, you may, as I conceive, ſafely rely upon ſuch repreſentations as he ſhall make of matters here: wherefore there is only one concern which I ſhall fill this letter with, and that is relating to the revenue, leaving all others to his narration. The preſent farm drawing now ſo near an end, it were but reaſonable thoſe methods were ſoon concluded on, which ſhould be taken after the expiration thereof. Some former letters of mine acquainted your lordſhip with my opinion, that putting it into farm again were moſt fit for his Majeſty's profit. And, I muſt confeſs, I do ſtill remain of the ſame mind; but in regard we have an expectation of a parliament here, and hope there will be ſome increaſes made to his Majeſty's intereſt, it may therefore ſeem for the preſent more convenient to keep the revenue ſome time in his Majeſty's own hands, and ſo ſoon as the intended parliament hath met, and granted their ſupplies, that then both be lett together; for the advance we hope for in the revenue being principally upon the encreaſe of the cuſtoms on ſeveral commodities, if the cuſtoms that now are be let to one pack of men, and the new impoſitions on the ſame commodities to others, it will cauſe ſo much confuſion and diſpute, and will raiſe ſo many queſtions between them, as will much hinder the profit to both: and if it ſhould be let to thoſe who are in poſſeſſion of the farm, they will hardly be induced to give the full value of the new improvements. If any reſolution be taken to keep it in his Majeſty's hands for one year, or tho' but for half a year, it muſt doubtleſs be managed by commiſſioners. The principal thing to be apprehended in the management is, that men will more eaſily get letters of gifts, than whilſt it is in farm, and particularly

larly for the remittal of their quit-rents. But for thoſe matters we muſt guard ourſelves as well as we can; and ſome rules may be offered to his Majeſty's conſideration, to reſtrain the too eaſy paſſing away of money. And as for the quit-rents which are in moſt danger, I ſhall be able very ſpeedily to reduce them to a certainty, and by diminiſhing them upon all theſe lands which are overcharged, leave no juſt ground to complain of this burthen. My lord Conway will be prepared to diſcourſe with your lordſhip upon this ſubject, and to ſhew you the methods I take in the work, and tho' the ſum put out of charge will be ſome thouſands of pounds a year, yet when it is conſidered, that it is taken off ſuch lands where it cannot be collected, or at leaſt not without waſting them, none can think his Majeſty's income prejudiced by ſuch reducements. Beſides, the land which we ſhall diſcover, and thoſe others in Conaught, upon the ſettlement of that province, being brought into charge, which as yet they have not been, will more, I am ſure, than compenſate the ſum now ſtruck out. The next thing to be provided for is, that the eſtabliſhment do continue the ſame as now it is, only with thoſe additions for eaſing the ſheriffs, which are already publiſhed to the people by proclamation. And tho' I am confident the revenue will now more than diſcharge it, yet while it is in the King's own hands, it would ſure to be within bounds; whereby his Majeſty in the end can become no loſer. Theſe things being taken care of, I ſee no prejudice it can be to retain for ſome time the revenue in his Majeſty's hands: and if fit men be pitched upon for commiſſioners, there is no reaſon why we ſhould not make as much of it as the farmers have done: and beſides, this benefit will ariſe, that we ſhall better know

know what the worth of it is againſt it comes to be lett. I think I have almoſt broke my promiſe at the beginning of this letter, that I would not trouble your lordſhip with a long one, and therefore it is time to conclude, which I cannot yet do without giving your lordſhip the aſſurance, that I am, with all ſincerity imaginable,

Your lordſhip's,
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

Here is one ſir John Cole, a man of a good competent eſtate in this kingdom, who may probably be propoſed to be a privy counſellor. I know the gentleman well, he is a very honeſt man, and one I ſhould be willing were of that number.

To the lord Ranelagh.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, April 10, 1675.

I Have conſidered of the two propoſals of your letter, as to the firſt of them, which is laying aſide the caſual revenue for concordatums, I do fully approve thereof, and it may in many reſpects be convenient. As to the other concerning penſions, I likewiſe agree with you in the method that they be in a liſt diſtinct from the other eſtabliſhment, that if any failure of the revenue ſhould happen, the retrenchments may fall upon them, but methinks ſome reſpect ought to be had to the nature of the ſeveral penſions, if any of them are paid upon valuable conſiderations, as that of the counteſs of Tyrconnel, and that to the late earl

earl of Donegal, which were upon the account of purchaſe and not payments of mere grace and favour: beſides the ſum ſeems very large you have propoſed by way of limitation, viz. not to exceed ten thouſand pounds per annum. I obſervè in the firſt eſtabliſhment after his Majeſty's reſtoration the penſions were but 3329l. 10s. per annum, in that of the year 1666 they are 3313l. 7s. 6d. and in that of 1669 3214l. 7s. 7d. and no more, tho' a penſion be therein included of 1200l. per annum to my lord John Berkley, which I believe was never paid, and why they ſhould now be ſwelled to this height of ten thouſand pounds per annum, I do not well underſtand, eſpecially when there is ſo great a need of money for ſupplying the ſtores of the kingdom, and I do alſo fear his Majeſty will hardly be out of debt at the expiration of your lordſhips undertaking, beſides 'tis to be apprehended that when a parliament ſhall meet, the largeneſs of penſions may be one of the things objected againſt the ſupplying of his Majeſty's wants.

My lord Conway will diſcourſe both theſe and other particulars with your lordſhip at large, ſo as I need ſay no more, but remain

Your lordſhip's,
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

Sent by the lord Conway, a copy of the propoſals made by the earl of Strafford, duke of Ormond and earl of Eſſex, at their coming into Ireland, being the ſame verbatim.

As alſo theſe two following papers concerning the Nominees, and concerning the charters to corporations.

By the Declaration, there were thirty eight perſons in a particular manner provided for, to be reſtored in their whole eſtates, after repriſals firſt ſet out to adventurers and ſoldiers who were in poſſeſſion thereof, moſt of thoſe perſons either by being adjudged innocent, or by particular proviſoes contained in the Act of Settlement on their behalf, have been reſtored to their eſtates, and are in poſſeſſion of them.

By the Act of Explanation, all the reſt of thoſe thirty eight perſons who had not upon the firſt act been reſtored to their eſtates, together with as many more as make up in all fifty four perſons (who are commonly called Nominees) are provided for to be reſtored by the commiſſioners for executing the ſaid act to their ſeveral principal houſes, and two thouſand acres of land thereunto adjoyning, if they or their anceſtors had ſo much as two thouſand acres on the 22d of October 1641. And the adventurers and ſoldiers who were to be removed to make way for their reſtitution were to be firſt ſatisfied by ſome other forfeited lands to be ſet out to them by commiſſioners for execution of the ſaid act, equal in value, worth and purchaſe to the houſes and lands from which they ſhould be removed, and the perſons then in poſſeſſion were to detain the profits of the ſaid lands, until the ſaid commiſſioners ſhould have ſet out repriſals to them, and all perſons who after repriſals ſet out to them by the commiſſioners, ſhould refuſe to accept of ſuch repriſals, were to be accountable for the profits of the lands to the perſons who

who ought to be reſtored thereunto, from the time of ſetting out ſuch repriſals.

Many of theſe Nominees are in poſſeſſion of all the lands whereunto they were to have been reſtored by the ſaid act, others of them are only in poſſeſſion of part of their ſaid lands; ſome of them hold lands in Conaught ſet out unto them upon their tranſplantation in the uſurper's time, and ſome of them are reſtored to little or no part of their former eſtates, the commiſſioners for executing the ſaid act having not ſet out any repriſals to the perſons in poſſeſſion of the lands whereunto they were to have been reſtored by reaſon of the clauſe, (page 11) of the explanatory act, that they were required to take care that the eſtates and intereſts of his Majeſty's proteſtant ſubjects ſhould be ſettled with all convenient ſpeed, and that ſuch parts of the ſaid act as had a tendency thereunto ſhould be put in execution in the firſt place, and before any parts of the ſaid act which relates to other matters.

Such of the fifty four perſons, who by the Declaration were to have been reſtored to their whole eſtates, can only pretend now to be reſtored to their principal houſes, and two thouſand acres adjoining thereunto, by reaſon of a clauſe (page 8) of the explanatory act, that all ſuch perſons who had not then been adjuged innocent, are barred and excluded from all and ſingular claims and demands not particularly allowed and provided for by the ſaid explanatory act; and alſo by another clauſe (page 51) all clauſes in the act of Settlement, which do not conſiſt with the effectual execution of the Explanatory act, are thereby repealed.

Concerning the ſatisfaction of ſuch of the Nominees who are yet deficient of the proviſion made for

them, theſe matters may ſeem to be moſt conſiderable.

I. Whether, ſuch of the Nominees who are now out of poſſeſſion of the lands whereunto they were by the ſaid act to have been reſtored, can now be legally reſtored? In regard thoſe perſons in poſſeſſion thereof were by the act to have been repriſed by the commiſſioners for executing the ſaid act, and have paſſed certificates and patents of thoſe lands, with ſaving of the Nominees rights after they ſhould be repriſed by the commiſſioners for executing the ſaid act, which being all particularly named in the ſaid act, (page 108) and three years being the utmoſt time allotted to them for the execution of the ſaid act, which are long ſince elapſed. Whether any other perſons can now be appointed as commiſſioners to ſet out repriſals to the perſons now in poſſeſſion of any part of the ſaid Nominees eſtates, ſo as the ſaid Nominees may be able to recover their eſtates from them in caſe they ſhall refuſe to accept of ſuch repriſals?

II. Whether the ſaid Nominees may not have part of the undiſpoſed forfeited lands that ſhall be diſcovered, granted to them, in ſatisfaction of the proviſion deſigned for them by the ſaid act, before all the proteſtant intereſts provided for by the ſaid act are firſt ſatisfied; (whereof many are yet deficient) or whether, that clauſe requiring the proteſtant intereſts to be firſt ſatisfied, was to be conſtrued only to extend to the commiſſioners appointed for executing the ſaid act, and to be in force only during the time of their ſitting, and not to oblige the

the King as to the diſtribution of the forfeited lands yet undiſpoſed of?

III. Whether ſuch of the ſaid Nominees, who now enjoy lands in Conaught or Clare in lieu of their former eſtates, ought not to accept thereof towards ſatisfaction of the proviſion, which by the explanatory act was made for them?

IV. There being by a clauſe (page 127) of the ſaid act of Explanation, one year's rent appointed to be paid out of all the lands reſtored to any papiſt, by any decrees of the late commiſſioners for executing the act of Settlement, bearing date after the 2d day of July in the year 1663, over and above the year's value already paid by them, the ſame to be paid to ſuch Iriſh papiſts as ſerved under his Majeſty's enſigns abroad, and are particularly mentioned in his Majeſty's Declaration, and were ſeized of any lands on the 23d of October 1641, to which they are not yet reſtored in ſuch proportions as the lord lieutenant of the kingdom ſhall think fit, whether the ſaid year's rent may not now be raiſed, and part of the monies that ſhall be received thereupon may not be paid to ſuch of the Nominees as are deficient and come under the qualification in the ſaid clauſe mentioned, or how his Majeſty would be pleaſed that the ſaid year's rent ſhall be diſpoſed of, when the ſame ſhall be thought fit to be raiſed?

This is the State of the Caſe of the Nominees, together with the ſeveral queſtions of law that may ariſe thereupon; it is therefore humbly propoſed to his Majeſty's conſideration in order to their ſatisfaction, and that this clamour may no longer reſt upon his Majeſty.

I. That there be a true eſtimate made of the value of theſe very lands intended them by the act, which values will vary according to the ſeveral counties wherein they lye.

II. What proportion of lands or other advantages each man now enjoys or hath received, and that the ſame be rated according to their true worth, that ſo it may appear what the deficiencies of any of them are, or if ſome have not more than ever the act intended them, and therefore ought to own the ſurplus, as it is purely his Majeſty's favour that they enjoy the ſame, and not be preſſing for new grants; and that thoſe who have leſs than their due, may have it ſupplied by ſome diſcovered lands, in caſe it ſhall be reſolved, that by law they cannot have thoſe very lands intended them by the act.

Memorandum. There was alſo at the ſame time ſent over by my lord Conway, a ſcheme of thoſe Nominees, formerly encloſed in a letter to the earl of Arlington, (bearing date. and therewith copied) with this addition at the bottom thereof. This is what appears upon record, and it is certainly known that many of theſe men enjoy more lands than is here expreſſed, and poſſibly others may have but ſome of the lands herein mentioned, being

being recovered by ſuits of law, yet this ſcheme may be a good foundation for an enquiry into each man's particular caſe.

Concerning the Charters to Corporations.

IN moſt of the corporations of Ireland, the freemen were generally papiſts in the year 1641, and ſo continued till about 1654, and although moſt of the perſons who were then free, may now be preſumed to be dead, yet there being a cuſtom in moſt corporations, that all the ſons of freemen are alſo free of the corporations whereof their fathers were free, there cannot but be now very many papiſts living who are entitled to their freedoms in their ſeveral corporations. Since the ending of the rebellion all the magiſtrates in corporations have been generally proteſtants, and many proteſtants have been alſo admitted to their freedoms, and in the Uſurper's time all the papiſts that were freemen were hindered from enjoying the benefit of their freedoms.

Since the King's reſtoration many diſputes have happened concerning the papiſts who were formerly free, being admitted again into the corporations.

By a letter from the King, dated the 22d of May 1661, his Majeſty declared his pleaſure, that the reſpective former inhabitants, natives and freemen, and ſuch as had right to be freemen in any of the cities or towns in this kingdom, ſhould be forthwith reſtored to their accuſtomed privileges and immunities, and admitted to trade in the ſaid reſpective cities and towns as freely as heretofore, without making any national diſtinction, or giving any interruptions upon pretence of difference of judgment, or opinion in

matters of religion. Notwithſtanding this letter many of the antient freemen that were papiſts were kept out of ſeveral of the corporations. In the act of Settlement or Explanation there is no clauſe that hinders any papiſt from buying or taking any leaſes of any forfeited houſes from the forty nine officers, without licence of the lord lieutenat and council.

His Majeſty afterwards by his Letters bearing date the 26th of February 1671, in the time of the lord Berkley's government, did again declare his pleaſure, that all the antient freemen of the reſpective corporations ſhould enjoy their former freedoms and privileges, and that a general licence ſhould be given to papiſts to hire or purchaſe any forfeited houſes in corporations, which was accordingly done, and his Majeſty's pleaſure therein publiſhed by proclamation of the lord lieutanant and council, bearing date the eighth of May 1671.

The rules ſince made by the lord lieutenant and council, in purſuance of a clauſe contained in the act of Explanation, does hinder all papiſts from being magiſtrates in corporations, unleſs diſpenſed with by the lord lieutenant from taking the oath of Supremacy, but nothing in thoſe rules takes away from them the benefit of their freedoms; yet in ſome of their corporations (in which the number of proteſtants is great) many of the papiſts are ſtill kept out and hindered from their freedoms, as particularly in Cork, which is now wholly inhabited by proteſtants, and the antient natives or freemen are either diſpoſed in the country abroad, or do only inhabit in the ſuburbs without the walls, but the trade is almoſt wholly carried on by the proteſtants. Upon renewing of charters, great diſputes are likely to ariſe between the preſent inhabitants and antient natives

tives of ſeveral of the corporations concerning the hindering of the antient natives from, or admitting them to the benefit of their freedoms. If they ſhould be hindered from their freedoms, they will complain that there is no law to take that benefit from them; that it is unreaſonable to hinder them from trading, and may be alſo prejudicial to the King in his cuſtoms, and will force them to withdraw their ſtocks beyond the ſeas, and that it is againſt the King's pleaſure expreſſly declared by his ſeveral letters, and ſince made publick by proclamation, upon confidence whereof (it will be pretended) many have come over to inhabit here, that by the Rules, papiſts who are foreigners may be admitted to be free in the corporations here, and that it will be hard to bar papiſts, who are natives, from enjoying that freedom which hath been already granted them. If they ſhould all be generally admitted by the new charters to enjoy the benefit of their freedom, the proteſtant inhabitants will complain that the corporations will be all preſently filled with papiſts as they were in the year 1641, and the proteſtant inhabitants thereby diſcouraged, that the number of the antient freemen who are papiſts will be much greater than of proteſtants, and thereby they will have the choice of parliament men, and the houſe of commons thereby will be filled with papiſts, who are not, by any law of force here, hindered from ſitting in the houſe: that it will be unreaſonable that ſuch, who by reaſon of their not being adjudged innocent have forfeited their eſtates, ſhould be admitted to continue their freedoms; and it is to be feared, that the preſent proteſtant inhabitants who will generally ſolicit and take out the charters, will hardly be at the charge of renewing them, if any proviſion ſhould be therein

made for all the antient freemen to be reſtored to their freedoms.

What expedients to propoſe herein ſeems to be very difficult, and it will be hardly poſſible to propoſe any that may ſatisfy both parties.

It may perhaps be a middle way, to admit only thoſe papiſts to their freedoms, who do now actually enjoy the benefit thereof, whereby thoſe papiſts who have not yet been admitted thereunto by the corporations themſelves, may be excluded; or elſe to provide that thoſe papiſts who have been adjudged innocent, and their heirs and children ſhall enjoy the benefit of thoſe freedoms whereby only thoſe who have not been admitted to enjoy their eſtates, will be hindered from their freedoms, but it is to be doubted whether either of theſe will ſatify the parties concerned.

To Sir William Temple:

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, April 13, 1675.

I Muſt acknowledge myſelf to be in arrear to you for ſeveral letters, the laſt I received this morning, dated the 9th of April N. S. which brings me the good news of the Prince of Oranges recovery. That diſeaſe he is ill of, hath been very fatal to his family, which made all men apprehenſive of him, I am ſure there is none rejoiceth more at his eſcape than myſelf, being very ſenſible how great a loſs he would have been to all true proteſtants.

The reaſon I ſo ſeldom trouble you with letters, is indeed becauſe we have ſo little in theſe dull parts worth your knowledge; but a particular happening here relating to ſome men where you are, I ſhall give you

you an account of it. A ſhip coming into ſome of the remote parts of this kingdom, was by the farmers officers vehemently ſuſpected to be ſtolen, and upon notice to me, I ordered one of his Majeſty's frigates to ſeize her, whereupon all is diſcovered; for the relation of which I ſhall refer you to the examination herewith incloſed. I wrote the laſt week to mr. ſecretary Coventry, deſiring him to communicate this affair to the Dutch ambaſſador, that ſo the owners might come to their goods again, but if this arrive ſooner, you may pleaſe to acquaint ſome merchants herewith to let theſe men know it; all the care that can be, is taken for preſerving the goods from embezelment, until the owners ſend perſons authorized to look after them: ſome goods theſe people (as the examination ſhow) did ſell when they came firſt on ſhore, but captain London had on board with him, by order, a ſufficient perſon who nailed down the hatches as ſoon as the ſhip was ſeized, ſo I am confident thoſe poor men who own her will looſe nothing of what was in her when ſhe was taken. We are big with expectation of what will be done this ſeſſions of parliament. Pray God ſend his Majeſty good ſucceſs, and that the meeting may prove happy to the kingdom.

I am,
With all ſincerity imaginable,
Your excellency's moſt faithful
humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Sir Henry Capel.

Dear Brother, Dublin Caſtle, April 13, 1675.

I Have many of your letters, and I find by their ſeveral dates, that all you have wrote are come to my hands, the laſt which came by this morning's poſt, bears date the 6th inſtant. Mr. Seymor is alſo arrived, and hath brought your letter of five ſheets, and the other papers ſo as you may be ſecure that all are ſafely with me.

As to mr. ſecretary Coventry, I have as great an eſteem for him as for any man living, and know him to be as much my friend as is poſſible, and am very ſorry when things do happen, which I am ſure is not through my default, to make him entertain the leaſt jealouſies. That I might pay him all the reſpect imaginable, when I firſt entered into his Majeſty's ſervice, I reſolved to obey ſuch commands as I received from him, and to purſue thoſe methods, which himſelf was pleaſed to put his buſineſs in, for ſhould I do other, I were not ſervant but maſter. My lord of Arlington, who I muſt needs ſay was as juſt to me as myſelf could deſire, did once take great offence at the method through which ſome things paſſed without his knowledge, which he conceived his office as ſecretary entitled him to, but when he ſaw the orders I had received, and the directions not to communicate them, he reſted ſatisfied I had done him no wrong; if the King does diſtribute his buſineſs into the hands of thoſe to whoſe employments they do not properly belong, how can I help it? therefore, I deſire you above all things, to give mr. ſecretary Coventry a full aſſurance, not only of my juſtice towards him, but of my ſervice and kindneſs whenever

whenever I have an opportunity to evidence it; for really between yourſelf and me, there is no man in this age I value more than himſelf, and I am very confident when this matter comes all to light, he will be far from having any ill thoughts of me. I have forborn the writing to him upon this ſubject, being more capable to be explained by diſcourſe, and have deſired mr. Harbord to do it effectually.

In relation to the matter of Eſſex-houſe, I am ſtill of the ſame mind I was, that it was no improper thing for the King to give, nor any way unfit for me to receive; neither do I underſtand why my accepting of a grace from his Majeſty, muſt therefore engage me with parties; but I believe that affair, tho' utterly againſt my mind, is now quite at an end. My lord chief juſtice Povey I have ſpoke with, whom I find not inclined to leave this country, ſo that his friends were too forward in moving any thing thereunto. I have had ſo many letters to write to-day, and intending a hunting journey into the country to-morrow. I have time to ſay no more, but remain

Your moſt affectionate brother.

ESSEX.

As to what relates to my brother Ned's good, I ſhall ſend you over an account ſo ſoon as I return.

To

To Mr. Thinne.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, April 13, 1675.

I Have yours of April the 6th. wherein you mind me, that in paſſing the charters to corporations, care be taken of the rights belonging to the admiralty, here is already a letter of his Majeſty's upon this ſubject which is lodged with mr. attorney and mr. ſolicitor, with ſpecial directions that nothing do paſs to the infringement of their rights.

By the laſt packet I gave mr. ſecretary an account of a ſhip we had taken here, which was ſtolen from the owners thereof by ſome Engliſh and Iriſh gentlemen; having nothing of importance now to trouble him with, I have encloſed to you a further account of that matter, together with the examinations of ſome of thoſe who were taken aboard the ſhip, which I deſire you to acquaint him with, and remain,

Your moſt affectionate ſervant,
ESSEX.

To the Counteſs of Orrery.

Madam, Dublin Caſtle, April 13, 1675.

I Have received the favour of your Ladyſhip's letter, dated April the 9th concerning mr. Walſingham's parting with his enſigns place, which I am willing he ſhould do, and colonel St. Leger's ſon come in his room, ſuppoſing the latter to be at leaſt eighteen or nineteen years of age. Mr. Walſingham has ſome debts in this town which do not exceed fifteen pounds, wherefore if your ladyſhip pleaſe that

order

order be taken for the payment of them when he parts with his commands, my ſteward ſhall return the particulars.

The letters which came in from England this morning, tell us that the prince of Orange is ſo well recovered of the ſmall pox, that he begins to ſit up. I deſire your ladyſhip will be pleaſed to preſent my ſervice to your lord, and let him know that I would have wrote to him, but that I have lately been a little indiſpoſed. I wiſh you both a good journey, and remain,

Your ladyſhip's moſt humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Sir Arthur Forbeſe.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, April 13, 1675.

I Have yours of the 10th inſtant, and approve well of enlarging the ſoldiers quarters, as alſo of ſpending the biſcuit, which I preſume if longer kept will be worſe. As for the horſe, I conceive they may agree for their ſummer's grazing the ſpring drawing on ſo faſt. The aſſignments were ſent down the laſt Saturday, ſo as ere this, you cannot but have received them. Mr. Taylor tells me that he ſtopped no money out of colonel Salkfeild's company the laſt pay day, and that was the reaſon he had forty pounds this time, and twenty the next, and ſo on in the like proportion till his debts are paid. Our letters come in from London this morning, tell us that the prince of Orange is now ſo well of the ſmall-pox, that he begins to ſit up, and the 11th day being paſt, it is confidently hoped the danger with him is over.

I am, your faithful and moſt affectionate ſervant,

ESSEX.

To

To the Lord Maſſereen.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, April 13, 1675.

I Have your lordſhip's of the 10th inſtant, and being to go upon a hunting journey into the county of Kildare to-morrow, I have ſo many diſpatches to make by the poſt this evening, that I cannot ſend you directions to-night, but ſo ſoon as I return, you ſhall hear further from,

Your lordſhip's moſt affectionate ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Secretary Coventry.

Sir, Greenhills, April 18, 1675.

I Have received yours of the 16th of April, together with the paper incloſed, it being a copy of that delivered at the council-board. I happen to be now in the country on a hunting journey, and my papers and inſtructions all at Dublin, ſo as 'till I return thither, which will be on Wedneſday next, I cannot be fully poſitive in what I write: thus much only upon my memory I will take liberty to inform you, that as to thoſe parts of the paper which mention an inſtruction ſent hither unto me, it is right in the ſubſtance, for ſuch an inſtruction I did receive; but I do believe the words are not exactly the ſame, when I ſhall come to compare them. For the other part, which ſeems to be a piece of a letter, moving for ſome further inſtructions, I know not from whence that letter ſhould come. 'Tis penned in the third perſon: I am ſure I never wrote any to the effect therein

therein mentioned, as desiring those instructions to be further enlarged. True it is, that after the receipt of these orders counter-signed by my lord treasurer, I did write to his lordship, taking notice, that as for letters of grants, &c. within the scope of those my private instructions, and which I had formerly received, and were not yet passed, it should suffice to acquaint his lordship with the substance, and send copies thereof to him, and receive his opinion thereupon; but that for the future I desired all letters of these natures might come in the form prescribed, that so I might be justified in my actings here, for otherwise I should be much to seek what to do. This is the truth of the matter, to the best I can remember; but having ordered Mr. Harbord to give you full satisfaction in the case, I suppose that will be done before this letter can arrive. I can only say, that when I first entered into his Majesty's service, I took up a resolution of entire obedience to his commands, and to pursue the business committed to my charge, by those methods himself should prescribe. Nor do I indeed see how I can do other, unless I would make myself master. Neither is it fit any man should command, that does not himself know how to obey. I do and will acknowledge to all men, that since you have been in the station where you are, I have not only received all the justice imaginable, but all the kindness from you I could expect: nor shall I ever shew myself unworthy of the many favours you have been pleased to do me. 'Tis difficult at this distance by letter to clear all particular occurrences which may happen; but having commands not to communicate these instructions, I did not so much as let my secretary Mr. Harbord know of them, tho' he was here when they came, he then intending a journey soon for

for England; but at his late return I did tell him of them, in regard he might mind me to be conformable thereunto: and as I have already ſaid, I hope he has cleared the matter with you, for whoſe friendſhip I have a moſt invaluable eſteem, and remain with perfect ſincerity,

Your moſt faithful, and moſt humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Earl of Orrery.

My Lord, Greenhills, April 18, 1675.

I Have received yours of the 13th, concerning the tories, who have lately been out, and wherein you alſo give me notice that their protections are near expired. I look upon theſe ſort of people to be pretty difficult to deal withal, and therefore if your lordſhip thinks fit, I conceive you may enlarge their protections for a fortnight or twenty-one days longer, and that you pleaſe to name ſome perſon to me, either Mr. Chimens, or whom elſe you judge proper, to leave a power in your abſence to treat with them, and I ſhall accordingly inſtruct ſuch perſons you nominate, who conferring with others of the gentlemen likewiſe employed in the ſame county on the like deſign, may do that which is beſt for his Majeſty's ſervice, and the quiet of his ſubjects there.

I have nothing further to add, but to wiſh your lordſhip a happy voyage, and remain,

Your lordſhip's moſt faithful
humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Harbord.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, April 19, 1675.

I Have received your letter from Cheſter, and by the ſame packet I had one from Mr. ſecretary Coventry, whereby I find that he knows of the ſubſtance of my inſtructions. I would have you take all the care you can to ſet things right with him, which is all I have to ſay at preſent, remaining

Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To Sir Henry Capel.

Dublin Caſtle, April 24, 1675.

Dear Brother,

TILL theſe late letters I could never underſtand the bottom of the affairs concerning my private inſtructions, and the grounds of Mr. ſecretary Coventry taking ſomething relating to them ill from me: ſo as I fear all I have hitherto wrote, and all the directions ſent by Mr. Harbord, may prove ineffectual towards the giving him that ſatisfaction, which indeed I acknowledge to be his due. Mr. Harbord's letter of the 17th inſtant, tells me, that the debate upon this ſubject was very warm between my lord treaſurer and Mr. ſecretary Coventry, and that in the end my lord treaſurer did affirm, that theſe private inſtructions were deſired, and wrote for by me, and that he had twenty letters to ſhew to that effect; which is ſo far from truth, that it never entered into my thoughts or imagination to ask for them. Nor did I ſo much as dream or know of

them, till they were delivered to me at Dublin. Neither did I write the leaſt ſyllable either to my lord treaſurer, or any perſon elſe whatever, to propoſe them. They conſiſt of four inſtructions; the firſt whereof hath been made publick in council, but none of the other: and having, together with them, received commands not to communicate them, till I am releaſed by the ſame hand, viz. his Majeſty's, I cannot give out any copy of the reſt. Immediately upon the receipt of theſe inſtructions, I wrote to my lord treaſurer on the 14th of Auguſt, in the words of the paper Number I. A while after, in a letter of mine to my lord treaſurer, dated Auguſt 22d, you will find the paſſage Number II. About two months after that, perceiving letters, notwithſtanding theſe my private inſtructions, ſtill come in the ſame form as heretofore, ſo as I know not how to give anſwers to them, in another letter to my lord Treaſurer (copy whereof is Numb. III.) I endeavoured to have the matter for the future regulated. Mr. Harbord further tells me, that I had wrote to my lord Ranelagh the other day, to deſire him to move my lord Treaſurer for a reſolution from the King what I ſhould do with thoſe letters and directions which lay before me, and that thereupon my lord Ranelagh did prepare the heads of an order in council. Upon peruſal of my late letters to my lord Ranelagh, I find one dated March 30, occaſioned upon a letter I had tranſmitted in Mr. Sollicitor's behalf, which I deſired my lord Ranelagh to ſee diſpatched to my lord Treaſurer; but that not returning in the form preſcribed by the inſtructions, I began my letter thus: "I have re-
"ceived yours of the 23d of March, together with
"the letter in Mr. Sollicitor's behalf, and give your
"lordſhip thanks for your care of him in this affair.

" ſhould be glad that the forms of paſſing lands " or money here were entirely ſettled, that ſo we " might keep to known rules in buſineſs of this na- " ture; for I find many men very uneaſy, who bring " letters, and have not the ſucceſs they expect: and " I am confident, that when the rule you mention is " eſtabliſhed, unreaſonable grants will not ſo eaſily " be obtained. See the rule, Numb. IV. This is the truth, and the whole truth, as to my part, in the tranſaction of theſe inſtructions, by all which paſſages it will appear, that I have barely obſerved the command of my maſter.

Some orders I have received concerning the ſending of a party of the army down to the North of Ireland, and with them directions to hold my intelligence for all things relating to this party, with my lord Treaſurer only. Now I do know, that this is a matter as foreign to the Treaſurer's buſineſs as any thing in the world, and proper only for the Secretary; yet I would fain underſtand from any man, what I can do in ſuch a caſe, other than ſubmit to his Majeſty's pleaſure; it not being the part of a ſervant to lay injunctions upon his Majeſty, in what method he ſhould diſpoſe of his affairs. Nay, I have been ſo far from offering to remove any buſineſs out of its proper channel, and am ſo great an enemy to it, that were it decent for me to ſhew ſome private letters which I have wrote to the King himſelf, they would ſufficiently juſtify me in this particular. And tho' I do not think it convenient to offer any copies of what hath at large been addreſſed to his Majeſty ſingly, yet a little of the ſubſtance I will communicate to you. At a time when my lord of Arlington and lord Treaſurer were in very high conteſts, and I found great difficulties to keep fair with both; and

that if either reſolved to thwart me, all under my charge would ſuffer very much, I did repreſent to his Majeſty the convenience of keeping that part of the buſineſs which related to this country in its proper channel; yet ſo, by my paying the reſpect to each in their ſeveral ſtations, his affairs might receive their due diſpatch, and I might preſerve a good correſpondence with all his great miniſters. This, and much more of the like kind, hath been expreſſed in ſome of my letters to the King. However, as to the letters which come from the ſecretary's, I muſt confeſs, that I am of opinion, that they are generally too eaſily obtained, for each man ſtates his caſe himſelf; and tho' there be another party concerned, he is ſeldom or never heard; and the letter drawn up by the petitioner himſelf, with any clauſes he thinks fit to inſert: ſo as I could give inſtances where matters determinable at law have been adjudged by letters. But, indeed, the greateſt miſchief comes to ſuch affairs as relate to the King himſelf, as remittals of quit-rents, and other particulars within the revenue, which upon any ſuggeſtion, without examination, paſs, and then I am forced to deny things after the King's hand is to them, which is a great hardſhip upon me. However, to my knowledge, I have not complained to any thereof, but to the ſecretary himſelf, viz. my lord of Arlington in a letter bearing date the 25th of April 1673, wherein I preſumed to conjecture, that ſome orders would be endeavoured to be obtained in England. The words of the letter are theſe. "I "am forced to gueſs at what is intended to be done, "and upon thoſe probabilities, to give my ſenſe of it "to your lordſhip, which I had rather do before or-"ders be paſt, than to be put to contradict or argue "againſt them after they are ſigned. This difficulty,

"I

"I am apt to foreſee, will perpetually attend this "employment, &c." And, indeed, it makes the place very troubleſome, and muſt, in my apprehenſion, be ingrateful to the King himſelf, to have ſo many of his letters denied by his miniſter, and yet I can't avoid the doing of it; this, I do aſſure you, that I never made any propoſal into England concerning the altering of thoſe methods: however, in my own thoughts, I do believe, they deſerve ſome conſideration. One thing more I had almoſt forgot, which was, that in one of your late letters, Mr. ſecretary Coventry had ſeemed to you a little troubled concerning a letter I had wrote to my lord Treaſurer about the diſorders of this city, ſaying, it was fuller than the repreſentations I had made to him. 'Tis true, my lord Treaſurer's letter was more large: and it was neceſſary, if I wrote to him at all, it ſhould be ſo in regard I was to ripp up to his Lordſhip the whole affair from the beginning, he not having any knowledge at all of the matter: but if Mr. ſecretary Coventry will compare both his letters, viz. that of the 3d of February, and that of the 10th of February, he will find them as compleat to the preſent ſtate of the buſineſs as the other; and for the narrative of what paſſed three or four years ago, I knew he was fully acquainted with it by ſome former accounts given him. I wrote to my lord Treaſurer, becauſe I had found his friendſhip upon other occaſions; and if I had wrote to three or four of my acquaintance of the committee for foreign affairs, a ſtate of this matter, I ſuppoſe I had been guilty of no error, provided I did not neglect to acquaint the principal ſecretary with the thing.

As for Mr. ſecretary Coventry, I conceive I need add nothing to convince you of the value I have for

him, as a worthy gentleman, and in relation to myſelf in particular. Had he depended upon, or been raiſed by me from nothing, he could not have done more, both of juſtice and kindneſs to me in the employment where he is, than he hath conſtantly performed. I have this only thing to complain of, that upon a ſuggeſtion, before I were heard, he would imagine any thing unkindly of me; and, indeed, I hope, for the future, he will believe me to be a plain man, without artifice, and one, who in a direct courſe, purſues his Majeſty's commands. I confeſs, I am in ſome wonder, to find all my letters relating to theſe inſtructions ſo coherent one with another, and all of them, ſo much as was fit for me, endeavouring that rules for paſſing of grants might be known and ſettled; for 'tis very poſſible, among ſo many diverſities of affairs and multitude of letters as I wrote, I might let fall ſome expreſſions inconſiſtent even with my own intention: but I do aſſure you, I have ſtrictly looked over all my late letters, and cannot ſee any thing of importance in them upon this ſubject but what I have ſent you. If any thing ſhould hereafter happen that may occaſion Mr. ſecretary Coventry to have any hard thoughts of me, I hope he will let you know the bottom thereof before he give credit to it; for there is not any man in the King's dominions for whom I have a greater eſteem than himſelf.

I am,

Your moſt affectionate brother,

ESSEX.

Part

Part of my letter to my lord Treaſurer, dated Auguſt 14, 1674. Numb. I.

" I perceive by his Majeſty's private inſtructions " which have lately come to me, that much of the " buſineſs of this kingdom will paſs through your " lordſhip's hands; and as I ſhall be punctual in pur- " ſuing his Majeſty's commands, ſo ſhall I be care- " ful not only to pay your lordſhip the reſpect due " to your place, but likewiſe upon all occaſions to " expreſs a moſt particular regard to your perſon, " and to ſhew the value I have of your lordſhip's " good opinion."

Part of my letter to my lord Treaſurer, dated Auguſt 22, 1674. Numb. II.

" In purſuance of his Majeſty's inſtructions, " your lordſhip will encloſed receive copies of ſeveral " of his Majeſty's letters which have lately come " to my hands, to all which I have given ſome ſtop, " 'till ſuch time as I could, by your lordſhip, receive " a ſignification of his Majeſty's pleaſure upon them. " Theſe inſtructions will, I am confident, be of ad- " vantage to his Majeſty's affairs, by preventing di- " vers irregular grants, which otherwiſe could not " be reſiſted. I ſhall not fail of doing my part, " tho' it will engage me in ſome difficulties: for, " if theſe inſtructions be made known, men will " get clauſes in letters to ſuperſede them; and if " I keep them ſecret, it will not be very eaſy for me " to anſwer their importunities, and to take ſo great " a load upon me as the denying every body. How- " ever, when letters of theſe natures do come, I ſhall

" find ſome pretence or other to reſpite the execution " of them, 'till I make a repreſentation to your lord- " ſhip, and I muſt rely upon your lordſhip's firm- " neſs to ſupport me in England againſt the clamours " of all thoſe who will take themſelves to be diſ- " obliged by me."

Part of my letter to my lord Treaſurer, dated October 24, 1674. Numb. III.

—" In the firſt of my private inſtructions it is di- " rected, that I ſhall not iſſue any warrants or order " upon his Majeſty's letters, for granting or diſpoſing " any revenue lands, quit-rents, &c. unleſs in the " preamble of ſuch letter it be particularly menti- " oned, that the ſame, before ſigned by his Ma- " jeſty, was referred to the lord high Treaſurer of " England, whoſe report thereupon, is alſo in the " ſaid preamble to be repeated. As for ſuch letters " which were received by me before theſe inſtructions " came, the acquainting your lordſhip with the ſub- " ſtance of them, and receiving your anſwer there- " upon, ſhall ſuffice to guide my proceedings; but, " for the future, I deſire all letters may be framed " ſuitable to this inſtruction, and therefore, if your " lordſhip pleaſe, to begin with this of my lord of " Carlingford, whom I have adviſed to addreſs him- " ſelf to you, and have the preamble of the letter " altered according to form: it will doubtleſs be " both ſafeſt to me, and beſt for his Majeſty's ſer- " vice, in regard that grants of this nature cannot " have too many teſts before they paſs."

Part

Part of lord Ranelagh's letter to me, dated March 23, 1674-5. Numb. IV.

—" I have encloſed ſent your Excellency Mr. Sollicitor General's letter, which was ſigned before " the King went to Newmarket, but I thought it " not convenient to ſend it away until I had firſt " ſhewn it to my lord Treaſurer, which I have now " done, and given him an account what your Excellency was pleaſed to write to me in his favour. " The letter my lord very well approves of, both " becauſe your Excellency recommends it, and becauſe he hears from all hands how uſeful a ſervant " Mr. Sollicitor hath been in the King's affairs there. " But hereafter, my lord deſires your Excellency, " that inſtead of recommending a letter, you would " recommend a petition, containing the deſire of the " party in whoſe favour you ſhall think fit to write; " becauſe he doth intend, ſo ſoon as the court returns from Newmarket, to get an order paſſed at " council, that no requeſt ſhall be made to the King " for the diſpoſal of either money or land in Ireland, " but by way of petition, which, after ſhewn his " Majeſty, is to be referred to the lord Treaſurer, " whoſe report, together with the ſubſtance of the " petition, are hereafter to be mentioned in the preamble of what letters his Majeſty ſhall ſign; " which certainly is the beſt, if not the only way to " ſecure us in Ireland, againſt the crowd of letters " which miſinformations do commonly procure."

To

To Sir Henry Capel.

Dear Brother, Dublin Caſtle, April 24, 1675.

THE letter I have wrote concerning mr. ſecretary Coventry, you may ſhow him together with the papers incloſed, if that will not give him ſatisfaction, I know not what to ſay more, I would be glad the matter were thoroughly ſifted, whether my lord treaſurer did declare at the council that I had deſired him to procure theſe inſtructions, and that you enquired of ſome of the privy counſellors who were then preſent, but pray let me know it upon good proof? I deſire you to take care that you believe not parties in the caſe, who perhaps may ſet me ill with the King's miniſters, I ſhould be glad if ſome who were preſent would write me the words in a letter; 'tis poſſible mr. Harbord may be in a miſtake, and if ſo, it were well to be rectified. I have received both your letters of the 10th and 13th inſtant, and juſt as I was about to ſign this, I received yours of the 20th wherein you preſs much for a copy of my inſtructions. The three unknown ones are not of any great moment, tho' there is ſomething in the preamble to them remarkable; but were they all cypher I would not ſend them, being commanded to keep them ſecret: yet if mr. ſecretary Coventry will move the king in it, and by a line or two from himſelf let me know it is the King's pleaſure, (ſuch a ſignification, coming from a ſecurity, being authentick) I ſhall moſt readily and willingly give a copy. I have nothing to add, but to deſire you will not fail, what circumſtances ſoever affairs may be in England, to ſhow mr. ſecretary Coventry this

my

my larger letter together with the papers belonging to it.

Veritas non quærit angulos.

I am, Your moſt affectionate brother,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Secretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, April 24, 1675.

SINCE my coming to town I have peruſed my inſtructions, and do find the firſt of them to be verbatim the ſame with that mentioned in the paper within your laſt letter. By this laſt pacquet I do hear, that when the matter of theſe inſtructions were debated in council, it was affirmed that they were deſired and wrote for by me, which I muſt tell you is utterly falſe, for I never did write one ſyllable to that effect, nor did I know or imagine the leaſt of them, till my lord Ranelagh on the 11th day of Auguſt laſt delivered them to me, and being commanded by his Majeſty to keep them private, I have done ſo ever ſince. Having writ more at large to my brother Henry upon this ſubject, I deſire you will allow him ſome time to diſcourſe this matter with you, being certain that when you underſtand the bottom, you can have no ground to believe that I have dealt ill with you, and had yourſelf been in the ſtation where I am, your proceedings could have been no other than mine have been.

I am,

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

After

After I had finiſhed my letter I received yours of the 20th of April, together with the encloſed papers of my lord chamberlains pretentions to the lapſed money.

As to the affair of his Majeſty's letters into this country, and all paſt proceedings relating thereunto, I am confident this preſent letter, with what I have wrote to my brother, which he will ſhow you, will ſufficiently ſatisfy you what my part hath been therein.

To Mr. Harbord.

Mr. Harbord, Dublin Caſtle, April 24, 1675.

I Have yours from Cheſter, as alſo another from London of the 17th inſtant. As to what you mention concerning the conteſt between my lord treaſurer and mr. ſecretary Coventry, I hope you have rightly informed me, for in that particular I have wrote to mr. ſecretary himſelf, and alſo at large to my brother Henry, and I am ſure when the truth is known mr. ſecretary Coventry can have no ground to think that I have done him any wrong. I muſt obſerve to you that the firſt letter for diſpoſal of any money here underwritten by my lord treaſurer, was procured by yourſelf, and for five hundred pounds towards the building of Dublin Caſtle. There hath alſo come another for the payment of one hundred pounds *per menſem* to ſir Arthur Forbeſe during his ſtay in the North: theſe two letters I have given orders upon, and not on any other, to the beſt of my knowledge, which had not the ſignet. For what you ſay in the latter end of your letter concerning Eſſex-houſe, I am ſtill of opinion, that had not the matter been bungled

bungled, it would not have made half the noiſe it hath done, being only a grace and bounty of his Majeſty's, and I cannot ſee why any man ſhould think it amiſs, that the King ſhould give me ſuch a gift. My lord duke of Ormond has received above 300000 l. in this kingdom, beſides all his great places and employments, and I am ſure the loſſes in his private eſtate have not been equal to thoſe I have ſuffered, and yet he is ſo happy as no exception is taken to it, but I am confident 'tis all idle talk, and as I have already ſaid, occaſioned in a great meaſure by perplexing the affairs at firſt. I hear that my lord of Sunderland has a promiſe to ſucceed me ſo ſoon as I am recalled, and that procured by the dutcheſs of Monmouth. I am very deſirous to know how matters in parliament proceed, pray therefore be punctual in giving me an account of them.

I remain,
Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

I have received your letter of the 20th, but 'tis ſo newly uncyphered as I can return you no anſwer till the next.

To the Lord Conway.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, April 24, 1675.

I Hope this letter will find you ſafe at London, where I believe there is buſineſs enough ſtirring in parliament. Pray God ſend things end in a happy compoſure among them. I received an account by the laſt poſt, that at a debate in council between mr.

mr. Treaſurer and mr. ſecretary Coventry, concerning my private inſtructions, (which as I am told was ſomething warm) my lord Treaſurer ſhould acquaint the board that I had deſired thoſe inſtructions, and often wrote for them. I am not over apt to believe reports as they firſt come to me, and indeed I ſhould very much wonder if ſo worthy a man as my lord Treaſurer ſhould aſſert this; for however reaſonable or uſeful to the King's ſervice all or any of theſe inſtructions may be, is not the point, but whether I were the firſt mover or introducer of them, which your lordſhip I am confident ſufficiently knows I was not, for I am ſure I never had notice of them till they were put in my hand in your preſence. Had my lord Treaſurer ſaid that after the receipt of them, I told him they would be of advantage to his Majeſty's affairs by preventing divers irregular grants, which otherwiſe could not be reſiſted, it had been no more than what I do acknowledge: I wrote in a letter to him on the 22d of Auguſt, being eleven days after theſe inſtructions came to me, but the thing which I find ill taken by the Secretary is, that I ſhould propoſe an alteration of that couſe which had been a long time practiſed in this kingdom, and that without acquainting them with it, eſpecially in a matter relating to their office.

Your lordſhip will therefore do me a very friendly part, by enquiring and letting me know how far my name was made uſe of in this diſpute. I confeſs I have ever thought the letters which came hither did not paſs ſuch due examination as were neceſſary, before they were offered to his Majeſty's ſignature; but I have peruſed all my letters to my lord Treaſurer precedent to this Inſtruction, and tho' it be difficult poſſitively to affirm a negative, yet truely I cannot find

find any that mention or desire any new instructions to be framed. It has been my method to proceed openly and plainly in all my actings, and to pay to all his Majesty's ministers the respect due to their places, which I conceive is no more than being just to them; however there lies a superior duty upon me, which is strictly to obey his Majesty's commands, and that I have ever observed, tho' it may clash with theirs: and after all there are offices of friendship and kindness, which every man is free to do to those from whom he has received obligations, or has himself an inclination to shew them, and herein as I have not been wanting towards my lord Treasurer, according to those mean opportunities which the circumstances of affairs here afforded me, so shall I continue the like for the future, hoping that what I have heard may be misrepresented. My profession hath been always that of a plain dealing man, and unless the like measures are used towards me, it will be difficult to be at ease with his Majesty's ministers, and indeed impossible for me to go through with the employment I undertake, with any comfort or satisfaction; wherefore I have nothing to add further, but to tell your lordship I have that assurance of your friendship, as I am confident you will deal candidly with me in this particular, and that I may hear from you so soon as conveniently you can.

I remain, with perfect truth,
Your lordship's
most faithful humble servant,

ESSEX.

To Sir Gilbert Talbot.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, April 24, 1675.

I Have received two of yours, one from Litchfield, and the other from London; the parliament being now met, I ſuppoſe you are all buſy enough there, I pray God it may prove a happy ſeſſions; and if it be ſhort one, I hope we may yet ſee you again here before bowling time be out, where you ſhall ever be moſt welcome to,

Your moſt affectionate humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Sir Arthur Forbeſe.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, April 24, 1675.

BEing abroad a-hunting, I miſſed of receiving your firſt letter of the 17th inſtant, 'till it was ſo late as I could not return you an anſwer by that pacquet, which was occaſioned by the failure of a meſſenger ſent on purpoſe to me. I ſhall be very glad to have your company here ſo ſoon as you pleaſe; your ſecond letter came to me yeſterday, tho' dated the 12th, concerning one of the herald's attending at the earl of Donegall's funeral, I cannot imagine why that muſt be fixed juſt on the 29th of May, for if it be either three days earlier or three days later, he may be there. That day we keep with moſt ſolemnity of any, it being his Majeſty's birth and reſtoration, therefore I do not know how we may ſpare him.

Letters out of England, tell us of the meeting of the parliament; they ſeem to be in no very good humour,

humour; the encloſed which comes from one of your acquaintance, will give you an account of the particulars; as for news I herewith ſend you all that came in by the laſt pacquet. I have nothing further to add, but remain

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Ranelagh.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, April 24, 1675.

I Have yours of the 13th inſtant, which informs me that Eſſex-houſe is like to be kept by doctor Barebone, I am not one that loves to ſtruggle too vehemently for things of this nature, but if it could be had with convenience, I like the ſeat better than any other: the conteſt ſeems to be between the King's prerogative and this perſon, and that in a point which I never heard queſtioned before now; if Barebone do carry it, I ſhall reſerve his Majeſty's intended favour for ſome other opportunity of the like nature.

Sir Edward Scott's clamour is doubtleſs moſt unreaſonable, for if men will procure letters out of England that are illegal, they muſt not expect that I, who am ſworn to do right to all the King's people, ſhould purſue them in the terms they are penned, but rather the procurers of ſuch orders ought to be puniſhed, than the lieutenant here blamed for doing that which is his duty. To clear this I have ſent you the matter truely ſtated, with the copy of my order, which when your lordſhip has peruſed, I am confident you will not be nice in telling ſir Edward Scott his own; however I give your lordſhip many thanks for your advertiſement, and as any things of

theſe natures come to your ears to let me know them will be a moſt friendly part, and that which will much oblige,

Your lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,
ESSEX.

State of Sir Edward Scott's Caſe.

HIS Majeſty was pleaſed by his order in council dated the 20th of September 1672, to direct that the rents and profits of certain lands in the county of Tipperary, formerly ſet out to Dick and Cunningham, and then in controverſy between ſir Edward Scott and colonel Vernon, ſhould be ſequeſtered to his Majeſty's uſe, and that they ſhould be received and kept apart in the hands of the King's remembrancer of the Exchequer: notwithſtanding his order one Jeremy Donovan, an attorney of the exchequer, by authority from ſir Edward Scott, as he pretends, received and ſecured by bond, a conſiderable part of the rents of the premiſſes due after the date of the ſaid order, and ſome part of the rents of the ſaid lands were purſuant to the firſt order brought into the exchequer. His Majeſty by his letters patents of the 15th of December 1673, grants the ſaid lands to colonel Vernon and his heirs, together with all rents and arrears of rent, and meſne profits whatſoever, due or payable for or in reſpect of the aforeſaid land, &c. ſince the paſſing of the acts of Settlement, &c. except ſuch rents and meſne profits of the ſaid lands as were received by ſir Edward Scott by virtue of his *cuſtodiam*, and ſuch rents as are remaining in the hands of the remembrancer of the exchequer, by virtue of his Majeſty's order in council of the 20th of September 1672, and ſuch rents

or profits of the premiſſes which remained in the hands of the tenants, and grew due during the ſaid *cuſtodiam*; which rents and profits ſo excepted, his majeſty declares ſhould be for the benefit of ſir Edward Scott. His Majeſty by his letters of the 28th of January 1672, directs his excellency the lord lieutenant of Ireland to give all neceſſary orders to the barons of the exchequer, that ſir Edward Scott may not only enjoy without account all the rents and profits of the ſaid lands which he had in *cuſtodiam*, and which he had received at any time before the date of an order of council of the 5th of December 1673, by which order the ſaid lands were directed to be paſſed in patent to colonel Vernon; but alſo that he might receive and enjoy the rents and profits of the lands mentioned in his *cuſtodiam*, which were paid into the hands of the remembrancer of the exchequer, by virtue of the order of council of the 20th of September 1672, or which were remaining in arrear in the hands of the poſſeſſors of the ſaid lands from the commencement of the ſaid *cuſtodiam* at the feaſt of St. Michael 1670, until the 5th of December 1673, &c.

Hereupon his excellency the lord lieutenant, by his order of the 22d of February 1674, requireth the court of exchequer to conſider of thoſe his Majeſty's letters, a copy whereof was annexed to the ſaid order, and to cauſe ſuch neceſſary orders to be iſſued for ſir Edward Scott's receiving the rents therein mentioned, as by the ſaid letters are properly belonging to him, and which by virtue of his *cuſtodiam* he ought juſtly to receive and enjoy. The reaſons of inſerting which proviſoe might be, that his Majeſty ſeemeth to be ſurprized in his letter of the 28th of January 1674, by which he directs that ſir Edward Scott

ſhould enjoy ſuch rents of the ſaid lands, which he had at any time received before the date of an order of council of the 5th of December 1673, not being truly informed that Donovan by ſir Edward Scott's direction, as is pretended, had before the ſaid 5th of December 1673, contrary to his Majeſty's order of council of the 20th of September 1672, received or ſecured by bond a conſiderable part of thoſe rents, which by the ſaid order were to be brought into the exchequer.

The King's council were informed that neither of the year's value, nor *cuſtodiam* rent due to the King from the ſaid lands were paid, with which his Majeſty doth well appear by his letters to be acquainted by ſir Edward Scott, who without procuring any diſcharge for what was due to his Majeſty from the ſaid lands, would take the money out of the exchequer, which by his Majeſty's council was prayed might remain there towards his Majeſty's ſatisfaction; beſides colonel Vernon by virtue of his letters patents, which are a legal title, demanded the ſaid rents, they being included in the general words of his grant, and not in the exceptions as was alledged for him: They not having been received by ſir Edward Scott by virtue of his *cuſtodiam*, which colonel Vernon's counſel took to be abſolutely diſſolved by the order of council of the 20th of September 1672, directing the rents to be brought into the exchequer for his Majeſty's uſe. Nor did part of theſe rents remain in the remembrancer's hands, having been received and retained by Donovan as aforeſaid, contrary to his Majeſty's expreſs order, nor did the rents then remaining in the tenant's hands at the paſſing of colonel Vernon's patent, grow due during ſir Edward Scott's *cuſtodiam* which was alledged to be diſ-

ſolved

ſolved by the order of the 20th of September 1672, they having accrued ſince the date of the ſaid order.

To Sir Henry Capel.

Dear Brother, Dublin Caſtle, April 27, 1675.

I Wrote ſo fully in my laſt concerning the matter of my inſtructions, as I need add little more, but becauſe my letters are ſomewhat voluminous, and not in a few hours time to be thoroughly inſpected, I have taken one whole day to examine them ſtrictly, and have looked back as far as the firſt of January 1673-4, and can poſitively affirm that neither to my lord Treaſurer, to my lord Conway, or to my lord Ranelagh, did I ever write one ſyllable to deſire any inſtructions whatſoever, much leſs theſe in particular: the only clauſe that can any way be ſtretched to hint at ſomething of this nature, is in a letter of mine to my lord Conway dated the 26th of May 1674; the truth is at that time I had great difficulty to keep fair with both my lord Treaſurer and my lord of Arlington; and my lord Treaſurer did then take unkindly from me the not communicating matters more freely to him, whereupon I wrote the clauſe N°. I. wherein you will find that I then, as ſtill I do, made his Majeſty's commands the guide of my actings, and that I was ſo far from diverting the buſineſs from the proper officer, that I ſtill adviſed the entire keeping it in its due channel, nor is there one ſyllable of new inſtructions, or ſo much as the word inſtructions in the whole letter: ſome expreſſions there have alſo been in another letter of mine to my lord Conway, complaining of the too eaſy getting of letters

in England; it was upon occaſion of a letter of ſir Maurice Euſtace procured by mr. Bridgeman's means. You may well remember the matter, and how unworthily I was uſed by mr. Bridgeman in it; ſir Maurice Euſtace had at that time ſpoke very ill of me in London, and had drawn up ſeveral heads of complaints againſt me in relation to the government here, copies whereof I have by me, and put them in colonel Talbot's hands to ſhow them to his Majeſty, which colonel Talbot accordingly did, and preſt the King that there might be proofs of them, but the King was graciouſly pleaſed to anſwer colonel Talbot, that the matters were both in themſelves very inconſiderable, and likewiſe that he did believe none of them to be true.

Sir Maurice Euſtace had alſo at that time his emiſſaries in Dublin, to brag that he would be too hard for my lord lieutenant, and theſe ſpoke many indecent things of me, ſo as if he carried this, my credit had been utterly loſt, and I had been trampled upon by every body; how much therefore it concerned me to engage ſome powerful people in my ſupport, any reaſonable man may judge, and this occaſioned my letter (a copy whereof is N°. II.) to my lord Conway. I have likewiſe added ſome other expreſſions in my letters to my lord Ranelagh concerning grants, tho' not at all ſignificant to the preſent purpoſe, if the grounds of them be conſidered. That you may ſee all I have wrote that can any ways be wreſted towards this matter, you will find them in N°. III. and I deſire you to ſhow them all to ſecretary Coventry. After all this I conclude I need ſay no more in relation to thoſe inſtructions, and mr. ſecretary Coventry; indeed cannot be blamed in believing I might have done him ſome wrong,

when

when ſo notoriouſly it was affirmed before his Majeſty himſelf; but I cannot think you have altogether dealt ſo kindly with me, who ſhould know me better than to imagine any indirectneſs in my proceedings. I did never till now ſuſpect you of popiſh principles, for I perceive by all your late letters, that you firſt conclude yourſelf directed by an infallible guide, and then from thence argue all the reſt of the world to be hereticks, and that you cannot communicate with them; if this be not ſo, what mean your ſeveral expreſſions to ſay that you are ſure you are in the right? and in your laſt letter you ſpeak of principles agreed on, and that you deſire to leave me, and preſerve yourſelf in the good eſteem of honeſt men, &c. whereas it is impoſſible for you to know all the circumſtances relating to this government, and the private orders and directions I have from my maſter, and conſequently cannot judge of the plainneſs and evenneſs I have conſtantly uſed in my proceedings in matters of law or right between man and man. What letters ſoever I receive from his Majeſty, I cannot nor will obey them if diſagreeable to the known laws of the land, but in things indifferent, or the diſpoſing of this buſineſs into this or the other hand, for inſtance, if his Majeſty ſhould command me to hold all my correſpondence for matters of the army with a foot-man, or the meaneſt ſervant he has, I would be punctual in the performance thereof, but for my own part I never did or will adviſe the putting things out of their due courſe, well knowing how much better it is for a prince to change his ſervants if he find them unfit for their places, than by altering the approved and ſettled methods for the diſpatch of his buſineſs, to confound the whole courſe of his affairs, and unhinge even the

government itſelf; but I hope theſe late inſtructions, and all that hath been done upon them, when the truth comes to light, will be more to my advantage than any thing that hath ever happened. I do wiſh yourſelf to take warning by this particular, and not to be over haſty in judging what I do, who have never ſtirred one inch from the rules I firſt laid down to myſelf. Chriſtian charity obliges all men to ſpeak well of the dead, and prudence in politicks ought doubtleſs to engage all his Majeſty's miniſters at home to make favourable conſtructions of the actions of thoſe who are employed in foreign ſervice, and to delay the giving their judgment of any thing they ſee or hear till they know the bottom. I hope mr. Harbord's over buſy humour will do me no prejudice; I deſire you will be cautious of it, and hold him to a plain and direct courſe; in his late letter he hath fully opened himſelf concerning the matter of Eſſex-houſe, viz. that becauſe it did not come through his means, the having of it would be inconvenient to me. I tell you, true it was, that I ever ſuſpected him to be in the foundation of thoſe obſtructions which were given to it, and I have of a good while obſerved that mr. Harbord has ſo much aimed at the governing all with me, and the being maſter has made me refuſe many things, though indifferent in themſelves, only becauſe he propoſed them, and this I ſhall continue to do ſo long as I find him obſtinate in his way, for of all things in the world I cannot bear it in a ſervant to make himſelf maſter. I have nothing further to add, but remain,

Your moſt affectionate brother,

ESSEX.

Part of the Lord Lieutenant's letter to lord Conway, dated May 26, 1674. Numb. I.

——" I confeſs, for my own part, I have ever been " of opinion, that his Majeſty's affairs receive much " prejudice by not ſuffering them conſtantly to run " in their due channels; that is to ſay, matters of " the revenue perpetually to run through my lord " Treaſurer's hands; queſtions of gifts and grants " through my lord Keeper's; affairs of ſtate and go- " vernment through the Secretary's. And of this " my opinion I have four or five months ago given " his Majeſty a hint in one of my letters, but hav- " ing never received any directions to communicate " his Majeſty's buſineſs to any other than my lord of " Arlington, I have conſtantly (as a good ſervant " ought to do) kept the courſe, *&c.*

And I do intend for the future, upon the grounds of this his Majeſty's private letter, which directs me to make my return to my lord Treaſurer, to communicate all things relating to the revenue by that hand, unleſs I ſee occaſion for me to write to his Majeſty himſelf.

Part of my letter to my lord Conway, dated June the 8th, 1674. Numb. II.

——" The letter which came laſt concerning theſe " mills, is an eminent inſtance how things of this " ſort are paſſed there, it being the uſual practice " among them to give the drawing of the letter to " the party concerned, ſo as he puts in what himſelf " pleaſeth. I am ſure this method gives me much

" trouble

" trouble here, but this I only ſay to yourſelf and no " other."

Part of my letter to my lord Ranelagh, May 6, 1674, *and of May* 16, 1674. Numb. III.

——" That which you ſay, and which is alſo in- " ſerted in his Majeſty's letter, that an over-payment " in ſome parts ought to balance the want of per- " formance in others, I cannot, I confeſs, altogether " agree to: and tho' his Majeſty hath in his letter " declared his opinion, yet, I conceive, I may ne- " vertheleſs, with ſubmiſſion to his Majeſty's plea- " ſure, offer my ſenſe thereupon. Theſe over- " payments ought to be diſtinguiſhed, and the par- " ticular natures of each of them conſidered; for I " look upon the payments and debts of your lord- " ſhip's undertaking to be of two ſorts, and theſe " either ſuch, as you undertake to diſcharge by cer- " tain gales, and at ſuch and ſuch preciſe times, as " payments on the eſtabliſhments, the debts due on " the civil and military liſts, or ſuch as you are " obliged to pay only before Chriſtmas, 1675, as " debts to Patrick Arthur, earl of Angleſey, purchaſe- " money for the park, &c. Now, if any of theſe " latter are paid before the end of the term, they " ought not to come in balance with thoſe payments, " which by the covenants you ought to make at " preſcribed times. Then, for his Majeſty's letters " and gifts of bounty, your lordſhip well knows, " that much of the miſcarriage of his Majeſty's bu- " ſineſs here aroſe originally from hence, that divers " letters for gifts and gratuities were procured, and " theſe were diſcharged, and the publick monies left " unanſwered, which was one of the principal cauſes

" that

" that made way for your lordſhip's undertaking. " Now, if the practice be ſtill to comply with letters of bounty, before neceſſary charges and debts " due, I would fain know how the kingdom is in a " better condition than under the former vice-treaſurer, and wherein the publick hath an advantage by the undertaking? Nay, I am ſure, his " Majeſty, who is unſatisfied with the actings of the " former vice-treaſurer here upon this very point, " cannot, when he ſeriouſly reflects thereupon, be " contented with the like dealings in others. Yet, " I confeſs, there are a third ſort of payments, which, " the neceſſity of ſtate, obliged his Majeſty to make; " ſuch as the extraordinary charges for the regiments " maintained in England: and theſe, I conceive, " are but reaſonable to be allowed; for I cannot " but agree, that publick monies may be permitted " to balance publick monies; tho' I ſee no ground, " why private ones ſhould bear the like weight in " that ſcale."

Part of my letter to my lord Ranelagh, May 16, 1674.

Numb. III.

——" Some clauſes there are in mine, relating to " his Majeſty's letters of bounty, wherein, I confeſs, I have been very free in giving my opinion; " but yet, I conceive, I have ſaid nothing diſconſonant to prudence or good reaſon; and if your " lordſhip pleaſe to turn it the right way, I believe very good uſe may be made thereof to his " Majeſty's ſervice: for when your lordſhip ſhall " make it appear how backward I am to allow theſe " by-expences upon your account, you may the better take upon you to obſtruct the grants for the " future."

To

To Mr. Secretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, April 27, 1675.

YOURS of the 20th I have received, and with it ſome papers encloſed, relating to a concern of my lord Chamberlain's in the lapſed money. I have not known any fund in Ireland but has ever been overcharged with payments, and if this be not, 'tis very good fortune to thoſe who have claims to parts of it. However, looking back into this matter, I perceive by his Majeſty's late letter, that he has reſerved to himſelf the giving preference of payment to any who have grants on this fund; for the words are, "And the monies, ſo aſſeſſed and levied, "you are to cauſe to be iſſued and paid, in ſuch "manner as We ſhall think fit to direct, to the per-"ſons to whom We have granted the ſame." Tho' the letter was counterſigned by yourſelf, yet for your better information, I have ſent you a true copy of the latter end thereof. I am not at all intereſted for Sir John Davies, or Major Bolton (the latter of whom I never ſaw) further than apprehending their pretenſions to be juſt, to ſend them over to you; but for my lord chamberlain, I have a particular reſpect, and ſhall ever be ready to ſerve him in any concern of his; wherefore I cannot agree with his lordſhip in what he ſays in his letter to you, that 'tis difficult to find out by what merit or heraldry any lord of Orrery ſhould pretend to a preference before himſelf and the other ſecretaries: but in this caſe, the King's pleaſure is doubtleſs a law; and therefore I conceive it were beſt my lord Chamberlain, and thoſe others concerned with him, had a letter to take place immediately after my lord of Orrery's ſatisfaction.

And

And when I am armed with ſuch an order, his lordſhip may reſt ſecure (if I continue in the government) he ſhall have right done him. I am very glad his Majeſty will himſelf adjuſt this affair, concerning letters to be ſent into this kingdom. 'Tis a difficult taſk I have in hand; for if I diſobey orders (I mean ſuch wherein there is no illegality) his Majeſty has juſt cauſe to caſt me off; and, if I obey them, ſome of his miniſters take it ill from me, that they may have not the reſpects due to their places. And at laſt, when things come to be examined, I being abſent, the whole blame of all irregularities is caſt upon me, as if I deſired and procured inſtructions without communicating any thing to the proper miniſter; whereas, indeed, I never wrote one ſyllable to that effect. And I have ſtrictly peruſed all my letters, either to my lord Treaſurer, lord Conway, or lord Ranelagh, from the firſt of January 1673-4, till the 11th of Auguſt 1674, which was the day I received theſe private inſtructions; and do not find one word tending towards the propoſing any new inſtructions in general, much leſs theſe in particular; and therefore I hope, if any thing hath been ſaid, as if I had been the author or contriver of them, you will be pleaſed, in ſuch manner as you think fit, to clear me of it. And as truth needs no ſubterfuges, but when it comes to the light is always of advantage to thoſe that guide themſelves by it; ſo I doubt not but you will hereafter, ſeeing the wrong which has been done me in the tranſaction of this affair, take ſuch meaſures of me and my proceedings, as for the future never to have any unkind imaginations of me. I do with ſome impatience long to hear the receipt of my laſt letters, and that my brother hath communicated to you what I then wrote to him.

The

The iſland of Ennis Boffine is always kept garriſon'd; being ſome leagues from land, there is a neceſſity of maintaining a boat there to fetch proviſions for them. Formerly a little ſhip was employed for the ſervice of this place and the iſle of Arran, which being long laid up in Galway, is become ſo rotten, as 'tis daily ſtolen away by pieces. The encloſed is from the receiver of his Majeſty's revenue in thoſe quarters, and will inform you what condition this ſhip is in; but in regard ſhipping is in the nature of munition for the defence of the kingdom, I would not diſpoſe of it without an order from England. That therefore which I deſire of you is, that you will be pleaſed to acquaint the lords commiſſioners of the admiralty herewith, to the end I may have their directions to appoint ſome principal perſons of the town (the mayor and governors being now in England) to value and ſell the ſhip, and with the money to buy a boat, which I am told will not coſt above twenty or twenty-five pounds, for the uſe of the garriſon of this iſland. Methinks the parliament ſeems very warm in their debates, and muſt needs make work enough upon all your hands in England. I wiſh this ſeſſions may prove happy, and remain,

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Harbord.

Dublin Caſtle, April 27, 1675.

Mr. Harbord,

AT the foot of my laſt I told you I had yours of the 20th. If the Treaſurer or any other did aſſert that I wrote either for the very inſtructions, or any inſtructions whatſoever, they have done me wrong in it, being abſolutely falſe. I perceive you are alſo in an error, in apprehending that by the inſtructions his Majeſty reſerves to himſelf a power to diſpoſe of lands and monies in this kingdom by a line of his own hand. The inſtructions do direct, that I ſhall paſs no lands upon any letters, unleſs it has been referred to my lord Treaſurer, and his report inſerted in the preamble thereof; yet with this exception, unleſs the contrary be written to me with the King's own hand; which direction muſt be underſtood thus, that I may paſs ſuch letters as come to my lord Treaſurer's report, but other letters, where his report is left out, are not to proceed, unleſs ſeconded by a private letter from the King himſelf; not that a private letter alone ſhould paſs lands, &c. but only that a private letter ſhould ſuperſede theſe inſtructions. You tell me, that yourſelf and my lord Ranelagh were to meet at my lord Treaſurer's, to prepare inſtructions for the future, ſuch as were fit to be ſeen by all men, and uſeful and neceſſary for grants. You that ſee what work hath been made already of thoſe inſtructions to my diſadvantage, I do wonder you ſhould engage yourſelf with any faction or party in drawing new ones, whatever you do, being in a manner conſtrued my act. If his Majeſty thinks fit to ſend me any commands, I ſhall obey them;

them; but as for new inſtructions, let his Majeſty appoint whom he pleaſeth to form them, and I am ſatisfied; but yet the more favourable way would be to let me have the heads of them, that I may offer my objections againſt them before they be ſigned.

As to the compoſure between my lord Treaſurer and Mr. ſecretary Coventry, I am very glad to hear that his Majeſty's miniſters are like to accord better than heretofore; but yet I muſt tell you, that I ought to have right done me in the thing, and that the privy council ſhould not believe I moved for theſe inſtructions when I did not: for I had rather loſe my employment, tho' it were ten times the value it is, than not ſerve as a man of honour. You have now at length cleared the matter concerning Eſſex-houſe, viz. that becauſe yourſelf was not employed in the affair, you judged it inconvenient for me to have it. I cannot compare this with any thing better, than that which you tell me in the end of your letter, namely, that in caſe money be aſked in the houſe by any of the Treaſurer's friends, the oppoſite party are immediately reſolved to put in a charge againſt the Treaſurer; ſo as in the mean time his Majeſty's affairs are in a good poſture, ſince the two factions are ſeparably reſolved, that the publick ſhall not be ſupplied, unleſs it come purely by one of their means, each endeavouring by ſome by-way to obſtruct what the other doth. And in the like manner will my own concerns be, if you hold to theſe methods, not to let any thing be done but what yourſelf has a hand in, and are the doer thereof; which I hope you will take warning for the future, rather to obſerve what I direct, than to oppoſe things becauſe you did not adviſe them. In relation to the houſe itſelf, though I would be glad to be maſter of it, if it might come fairly

fairly and handſomely, and like it the beſt of any ſeat about the town; yet I never deſired, or would engage any of my friends for acts of parliament to ſerve private turns. But if in the common prohibition of new buildings, the turning of this into tenements be obſtructed, I would not omit the opportunity of going on with that purchaſe; and this you may let any of the members of parliament know, either of mine or your own acquaintance. In caſe any thing ſhould be ſtirring in parliament, as if I combined with my lord Treaſurer to divert the methods of government in this kingdom, that which I have writ at large to my brother in one by this packet, and two other letters, will ſufficiently inſtruct both him and you what to anſwer in it. You need not be nice in telling any of the members the truth, ſhould there be occaſion for it: for I am apt to believe, if you manage the affair rightly in England, the plain dealing which I have ſteadily purſued, when it comes to light, will fix me firmer both in the favour of his Majeſty, and the eſteem of all good men, than ever I could have been, had not this inſtance to demonſtrate it, arrived.

I have ſome few days ſince received a letter from the duke of Monmouth concerning young Mr. Sarsfield's death, and other particulars relating to that eſtate. Let the Duke know, that I have only delayed the anſwering his letter, till I have adviſed with the King's council here, and that in a little time I ſhall be able to return him an account which will be ſatisfactory. I am,

Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To Mr. ſecretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, April 29, 1675.

AMONG the other objections which have been ſtarted concerning my late inſtructions, I do hear that it has been alledged, that I myſelf put the affairs of grants, &c. out of the tract, by making application to my lord Treaſurer on the ſcore of ſome lands here. How frivolous this alſo is, the papers encloſed will fully convince you: the truth of the matter was this; I am ſworn by my oath, not to ſuffer any thing to his Majeſty's diſheriſon, and having a diſcovery made to me, that the mills and fiſhings of Kilmainham, (then in the pretended poſſeſſion of Sir Maurice Euſtace) did of right belong to the King, I ordered Mr. Sollicitor and Mr. ſerjeant Reynell (the latter of which hath always been of Sir Maurice Euſtace's counſel) to ſtate the caſe: and I dealt ſo fairly with Sir Maurice Euſtace in the matter, that I told him of it; and he either was, or might have been there, whilſt it was drawing up. This caſe I ſent into England to my lord of Arlington, acquainting his Majeſty with the ſituation of theſe mills in the middle of the Park, and how neceſſary they were to the ſword, as alſo that the landing belonging to the Caſtle, ſtood upon that ground; and that Sir Maurice Euſtace demanded rent for the ſame, which had never been required of any former governors. Hereupon, I had a letter under the ſignet, dated the 12th of February, 1673-4, directing me to proſecute the King's right; but Sir Maurice Euſtace being then or ſoon after in England, petitioned his Majeſty to revoke this letter. This petition being referred to me, I made a report thereupon to his Majeſty, which

report

report I deſire you will read deliberately, and obſerve how modeſt it is. Afterwards my lord of Arlington's letter of the 24th of March came, ordering me to take poſſeſſion in his Majeſty's behalf, which I accordingly did. Sir Maurice Euſtace being very ill pleaſed that the King ſhould have that which was his own, inſtead of purſuing his claim in a legal way, fell foul upon me, and both in ſpeeches at London, and very unhandſome letters hither (which letters I have ſeen) told every body that he had a conteſt with the Lord Lieutenant, and that he would be too hard for him: nay, he combined with colonel Richard Talbot, (who ſince my coming hath conſtantly been watching to do me injuries) to draw up ſome heads in a piece of paper, expreſſing my miſbehaviour and miſcarriages concerning the government here; which paper was by Dick Talbot ſhewed to his Majeſty, and have by me a copy of the ſeveral points wherof it conſiſted. His Majeſty was graciouſly pleaſed to give colonel Talbot this anſwer: That he looked upon the matters in themſelves to be very frivolous; and beſides, did not believe any of them to be true. Yet, after all this, by the aſſiſtance of Mr. Brunker and Mr. Bridgman, Sir Maurice Euſtace procured a letter, counterſigned by my lord of Arlington, commanding me forthwith to deliver back poſſeſſion again; and in doing that, played an ill cheat too, for he ſhewed Mr. Harbord another form of a letter, which was only to give a confirmation for the mills, and not to ſtir the poſſeſſion, and that Mr. Harbord conſented to; but afterwards, by the means of theſe men, he got the other letter ſigned, pretending Mr. Harbord had agreed to it. I muſt confeſs, I was not more diſtaſted at the thing, than at the perſons who were made uſe of in the matter. and above all, I

could not but take it extream ill from my lord of Arlington, with whom I ever had ſo fair a correſpondence, to uſe me thus. Yet then I was far from endeavouring to put things out of their proper channel, but proceeded openly and plainly. I wrote to my lord of Arlington upon this ſubject, and alſo to his Majeſty himſelf, and likewiſe to my lord Treaſurer, all dated June the 8th, 1674; and in that latter letter to my lord Treaſurer only ſaid this, "I am "not one that ſhall ever deſire to ſtraighten his "Majeſty's hands in beſtowing his graces upon any "perſon, &c. yet I would be glad that in this par-"ticular caſe my honour may alſo be conſidered. If "therefore your lordſhip can find any expedient to "accommodate both, you will mightily oblige, &c." After which came a ſignification of his Majeſty's pleaſure, that I ſhould continue the poſſeſſion, and that Sir Maurice Euſtace ſhould take the price for them that they were reaſonably worth: but whether this ſignification were by a former letter counterſigned by either of the ſecretaries, or by any intimation from my lord Treaſurer, or what other way I cannot ſay, having looked my letters over, but cannot readily find it. Copies of the things that are material in this affair, I have herewith encloſed; and tho' I know you are full of buſineſs this parliament time, yet I hope you will allow me half an hour to peruſe them. One point more I hear is looked upon as conſiderable in this caſe, which is, from the directions to keep the inſtructions private, when they ſhould come: and as to that, I ſay, my lord Ranelagh delivered it to me as the King's order, that they ſhould be kept ſecret; and I do well remember he gave this reaſon withal, that ſhould they be made publick, it would render them uſeleſs, for every man would in his

his letter get a *non obſtante* to them. His lordſhip brought with him a private letter, written with his Majeſty's own hand, recommending him to me, ſo as I had no reaſon to believe it other than truth what he ſaid; if it be falſe, let him anſwer for it. And now having removed all the objections that either I have heard of or can imagine upon this ſubject, I do aſſure you, that not only my judgment and reaſon tells me, but even the conſtant current of all the letters I have wrote into England, do, as much as was fit for me, to urge the keeping of his Majeſty's buſineſs in the proper officers hands; for I am certain, 'tis better for the King to change any ſervant he hath, than to confound the methods of diſpatching his affairs: and as I have ever had a moſt particular regard and kindneſs for your perſon, ſo I doubt not but the conviction you will have by the letters and papers I have ſent over of my plain dealing, both to yourſelf, and all others his Majeſty's miniſters, will for ever confirm and ſettle me in your good opinion: and that theſe falſe ſuggeſtions, which have been alledged to my prejudice, may turn to ſo good an end, is the earneſt deſire of,

Your moſt faithful,
and moſt humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

Among the papers encloſed is a letter to my lord of Arlington, which being the only paſſage of unkindneſs ever between us, I hope you will keep to yourſelf, we having ſince been very good friends.

Together with this letter were tranſmitted to Mr. ſecretary Coventry, the ſtate of the caſe of Kilmainham mills, Sir Maurice Euſtace's petition, reference, and my report, as alſo copies of two of my letters to my lord of Arlington and lord Treaſurer.

To Mr. Harbord.

Dublin Caſtle, April 29, 1675.

Mr. Harbord,

YOURS of the 24th is come to my hands. I have ſaid ſo much in my late letters concerning the affair of Mr. ſecretary Coventry, that there is little to be added, only ſince, it is affirmed that theſe inſtructions were not to be kept private, and that thoſe concerning the northern forces ſhould be kept private. I muſt tell you, that when my lord Ranelagh delivered the inſtructions to me, which was the 11th day of Auguſt, I aſked him whether they were to be kept private, or no? and he told me they were, and gave this for a reaſon, that if they were known, men would get clauſes and *non obſtantes* in their letters to ſuperſede them. I had no reaſon to ſuſpect the credit of what his lordſhip delivered, in regard he was a privy council of this kingdom; but chiefly becauſe he brought a private letter, written with the King's own hand, recommending him very much to me. As for the other inſtructions, relating to the northern expedition, I received them by the hand of Sir Arthur Forbeſe, who told me withal, that I was to hold my intelligence concerning them with my lord Treaſurer, and him only, but ſaid not one word of keeping them private: and for that point,

point, of holding my correſpondence with my lord Treaſurer, the King's command by Sir Arthur Forbeſe is a ſufficient authority. I hear alſo, there is much noiſe made, as if I put the affair of grants, &c. out of the common road, by applying myſelf to my lord Treaſurer in the caſe of Kilmainham mills. I have wrote at large to Mr. ſecretary Coventry upon that ſubject, and ſufficiently cleared the point; yet have left ſomething to your narrative, which you cannot but remember. To conclude, if ever I have been, or ſhall be blemiſhed for putting things out of order, in relation to this government, and ſuggeſtions of this nature, offered either in council or elſewhere, I do hope and expect, that my friends will not let it reſt till I am ſatisfied in the thing. My carriage has been ſo plain and clear in an exact obedience and conformity to his Majeſty's commands, and paying a due reſpect to all his miniſters in their ſeveral ſtations; as I am ſure it would be for my advantage, if all my letters and tranſactions were poſted up for all men to ſee and cenſure. But I will rather ſuffer myſelf to be made a pack-horſe than bear other mens faults.

I remain,
Your moſt affectionate friend,
ESSEX.

P. S. I have given Mr. ſecretary Coventry an account that the directions to keep my inſtructions private, came from my lord Ranelagh, ſo as I ſuppoſe that will clear my lord Treaſurer of it. I have my brother's of the twenty fourth of April.

To Mr. Thinne.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, April 29, 1675.

HAVING conſtantly wrote to mr. ſecretary Coventry by the late pacquets, I have nothing to tell you, but to acknowledge the receipt of ſeveral of the letters of the 13th, 17th, and 24th of April, which have all come ſafe to my hands.

I remain,
Your moſt affectionate ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the lord Aſton.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, May 1, 1675.

IT is ſome time ſince that I received your lordſhip's letter of the 22d of March; often the crowd of buſineſs, and at other times my lord of Carlingford being out of town, who beſt knew how to direct the anſwer, has hindered me thus long from making you a return, for which I deſire your pardon. I am ſorry that the ill will of ſome of your lordſhip's neighbours is ſo great as to neceſſitate you to quit the kingdom, the offer you make me of the purchaſe of Standon, I give you thanks for, but truly I am not a man who have ſo well improved my time here, as to put myſelf into a condition of purchaſing, tho' I confeſs if I were, this

lying

lying ſo near one of my own houſes, I ſhould deſire it rather than any other; it is in ſo good a hand now, that it troubles me it muſt remove. I do not readily know any one that can deal for ſo great a thing, and I believe your lordſhip will be forced to ſell it in parcels, the ſum being ſo conſiderable as few men have enough by them to go through therewith. My lord of Carlingford and I often talk of your lordſhip, and have many times wiſhed you here, tho' I cannot hope for that good fortune, yet do aſſure your lordſhip, that whereſoever you are, you ſhall not find any body with more truth and reality yours, than

Your lordſhip's,
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Sir Henry Capel.

Dear Brother, Dublin Caſtle, May 1, 1675.

I Have wrote ſo lately and ſo fully to yourſelf and mr. ſecretary Coventry, as I have little to ſay, only of a paper I received of ſome votes of the houſe of Commons. I find that there is a clauſe which mentions, that on Saturday the 24th of April, it was voted that an addreſs be made to his Majeſty to prevent any further anticipation or charge of the cuſtoms of England or Ireland, and this I hear was grounded on the conſideration of the condition of the navy. I do a little wonder there being

being ſeveral privy counſellors of Ireland in the houſe, that none of them ſhould better inform the houſe of the condition of this country, for I perceive that ſcarce any votes paſs in relation to us, but many errors are committed therein by not knowing the laws of the kingdom, and the cuſtoms and practices here; for the particular now inſiſted on of the cuſtoms of Ireland, they have ever been applied to the ſupport of the government and pay of the army, and not of the ſhipping; but as to the anticipation of this or any other part of the revenue, I have been ſo utter an enemy to it, as I have refuſed the King's letters, and made repreſentations into England to ſtop them, and if ſuch papers were neceſſary I would ſend over copies unto you.

Yourſelf and mr. Harbord have a very fair game to play in relation to me, that is to ſay, to avoid all ſhufflings and diſguiſes, and to let my actings appear naked and open, which I am certain muſt juſtify me; wherefore I deſire you will both of you endeavour to make his Majeſty ſenſible that I am punctual in obeying his commands in all legal things, and where any happen to ſlip which are otherwiſe, or inconvenient to his ſervice, I do conſtantly make reports upon them to ſuch perſons as himſelf directs me, and that no frowns of any of his miniſters how great ſoever, ſhall ever divert me from this courſe, and then to all his miniſters as Treaſurers, Secretaries, &c. you may aſſure them that I do and will conſtantly keep the buſineſs of this kingdom, as far as in me lyes to its proper officers, unleſs his Majeſty commands the contrary, in which caſe it is my duty to obey him. I have nothing further to add, but hope mr. Harbord and yourſelf will continue your care of me,

me, and to recommend to you the managing of it with the greateſt plainneſs imaginable,

I remain,

Your moſt affectionate brother,

ESSEX.

The paper encloſed being part of a letter from my lord of Arlington to me, I deſire you to deliver to mr. ſecretary Coventry; it belongs to ſome other papers which I ſent him the 29th of April, herewith you will alſo receive two bills for five hundred pounds.

To Mr. Harbord.

Mr. Harbord, Dublin Caſtle, May 4, 1675.

I Do very much long to hear of the receipt of my late letters concerning the inſtructions which were brought me by my lord Ranelagh. I hope a poſt or two will bring me an account of them. I would have you to acquaint his Majeſty that the books of the diſpoſition of lands here by the court of claims are now compleated, and will be ready to be ſent within a fortnight. I conceive whilſt the parliament ſits there will be little leiſure to look into things of this ſort, but ſo ſoon as I hear of a receſs I ſhall ſend a perſon over with them, together with a memorial that may lead to the uſe of theſe books themſelves; as alſo ſome propoſals relating to the method of the diſpoſing of the lands which ſhall be recovered, &c.

I remain, Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To

To the Earl of Shaftſbury.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, May 4, 1675.

HAving formerly troubled your lordſhip with a letter of mine in a caſe depending before the houſe of peers between my lord Loftus and mr. Barret, wherein I received your lordſhip's favour, that it might receive a diſpatch, and that men might not be wearied out with tedious and expenſive ſuits, and with the long attendance required to them; and hearing that the cauſe is now again brought before the lords in parliament, I could not refuſe the deſire of my lord Loftus, to remind your lordſhip of this my former letter; and alſo to acquaint your lordſhip, that ſince that time, upon a petition of mr. Barrett, and reference to me from his Majeſty, I was obliged to examine the whole affair; it aſked me two whole days hearing, I took the two chief judges (my lord chief juſtice Booth being then in England) to my aſſiſtance, and I made a report thereupon to his Majeſty, which I have done with all the care and juſtice I could; both parties had copies of this report, ſo as I ſuppoſe my lord Loftus's agent will ſhew your lordſhip one of them, and therein I have ſaid all that occurred to me as the true ſtate of the caſe. I ſhall not in matters of juſtice recommend any thing one way or other, only give what help I can for information, which having done, I ſhall trouble your lordſhip no further, but remain

Your lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To

To Sir Henry Capel.

Dear Brother, Dublin Caſtle, May 8, 1675.

I Have yours of the 27th of April, giving me an account of ſome proceedings in parliament. You ſeem very much joyed that I was not named in that part of my lord Treaſurer's impeachment which related to this country. Tho' I think no one would deſire to be named in the houſe of commons by way of crimination, yet I doubt not but this houſe of commons are in all reſpects as worthy and juſt as any other have been, and that ſo wiſe a body as they, will not believe a man to be faulty only becauſe ſome one malicious perſon ſays he is. The particular which was hinted to me was to this effect: that I had combined with my lord Treaſurer to introduce new methods for the diſpatch of Iriſh buſineſs. I am ſure the late letters I have writ, if they are come to your hands, are ſufficient to ſhew the contrary; and the private inſtructions which are the things pointed at in my lord Treaſurer's impeachment were procured in England, and ſent hither without my knowledge or concurrence. I am not aſhamed to have all my actings that relate to this government of Ireland, or concerning the publick, looked into; nor do I think I can ever receive prejudice, but rather an advantage by having them ſcann'd; yet I muſt on the other ſide tell you further, that I find mr. Harbord extream unreaſonable, for he is perpetually inſinuating to me, as if I ſuffered much in my reputation in England by keeping fair with my lord Ranelagh. The vice-treaſurer's place of this kingdom is in his Majeſty's gift, and he has been pleaſed to beſtow it on this perſon; now that it ſhould be attributed to me as a fault, that

that I ſhould live fair and well with thoſe of his Majeſty's miniſters that are in this government, is a moſt miraculous thing to me; if any man can ſhew one tittle of combination with my lord Ranelagh to cheat his Majeſty, or one inſtance wherein I have connived at any undue artifices or practices uſed in relation to their undertaking, then truly I were juſtly to be blamed, but to be cenſured by an oppoſite party, the head of whom, when he was ſecretary, did, at my lord Ranelagh's inſtance, offer to his Majeſty's ſignature, and counterſign himſelf ſeveral orders, which if purſued did quite contradict ſome clauſes in the undertaking itſelf, and gave them a latitude of compounding of debts here contrary to the expreſs words of their covenants, and that I who never failed to repreſent the inconveniencies of theſe letters, and multitudes of others for grants before I put them in execution, ſhould now by theſe men be blemiſhed upon this point, ſeems one of the ſtrangeſt things in the world; that I can ſay that there is not one man on that ſide the water (mr. ſecretary Coventry being only excepted, who indeed hath behaved himſelf exactly well, ſir Joſeph Williamſon hath ſcarce done any thing relating to us) who hath meddled with the affairs of this kingdom; but I could, if I were upon the ſpot, ſhew notorious faults they have committed ſince my coming hither, but it is not my part, nor hath it ever been my inclination to accuſe men: I have and will keep ſtrictly to the performance of my orders, let others take their own ways and courſes in their affairs, I muſt alſo again remind you to adviſe mr. Harbord to go more plainly to work in all my buſineſs. I remain,

Your moſt affectionate brother,

ESSEX.

To

To the Lord Treaſurer.

Dublin Caſtle, May 8, 1675.

My Lord,

I Herewith ſend your lordſhip copies of a petition, anſwer, and replication, in a matter in diſpute between my lord of Ormond and the commiſſioners of the Treaſury. As I was going to a hearing, I found an order of council, which had ſeveral months lay by me, relating to this affair, by ſome words whereof it ſeems to me, that his Majeſty had reſerved the judgment of this caſe to himſelf. Tho' the words are not clear to that purpoſe, yet ſince they may be of that meaning, I thought it moſt proper to tranſmit the papers into England, rather than to decide it here: and that no prejudice might happen to either ſide, I have, by conſent of both parties, ordered that the two thouſand five hundred pounds, being the monies now payable at May, and the ſum in queſtion, be depoſited in the farmer's hands 'till the eighteenth of June next, before which time his Majeſty will, I hope, give a determination to this affair. And being entered upon this point of the year's value, I conceived it fit for me, and indeed the duty of my place, to ſtate a queſtion which may ariſe upon this ſubject between his Majeſty and my lord Ranelagh and partners: the caſe is expreſſed at large in the paper herewith encloſed, and is of conſiderable value. Having heard there have been ſome debates in council, who was the proper officer for the Lieutenant of Ireland to correſpond with, and the matter remaining yet unſettled, I have therefore, to avoid all occaſions of diſguſt, in purſuance of my private inſtructions, ſent your lordſhip theſe papers, and in conformity to former

mer rules and directions, tranſmitted to Mr. ſecretary Coventry duplicates of them.

I am, Your lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

State of the caſe between his Majeſty and the lord Ranelagh.

By the Act of Explanation, there are three hundred thouſand pounds to be raiſed, which are to be paid to the following uſes, *viz.*

Fifty thouſand pounds to the King.

Fifty thouſand pounds to the lord Ormond.

One hundred thouſand pounds to the 49 officers.

And the laſt one hundred thouſand pounds to be iſſued out for the diſcharge of ſuch ſums of money as his Majeſty had appointed to be paid out of the half year's rent payable by the former act, and what had been received and paid upon the ſaid former act, was to be reckoned as part thereof.

Out of this laſt one hundred thouſand pounds there were at the time of the paſſing the Explanatory Act, forty eight thouſand pounds remaining due to the duke of Ormond, which was more than all the money that was to come in of this laſt 100,000 pounds, would ſuffice to ſatisfy, in regard there had been about fifty thouſand pounds raiſed upon this former act, which being reckoned part of this one hundred thouſand pounds, there did not remain above forty two thouſand pounds to be paid to compleat this laſt one hundred thouſand pounds. The duke of Ormond in 1669, in purſuance of an agreement then made

made between the King and the ſaid Duke aſſigned this forty eight thouſand pounds to the King, and the King thereupon granted him five thouſand pounds a year for four years, with a proviſoe to this effect; that if at the end of the ſaid four years the King ſhould have received by virtue of the ſaid Duke's aſſignment to his Majeſty, more than twenty thouſand pounds, then the ſaid five thouſand pounds *per annum* to be continued to the ſaid Duke, until he ſhould receive from the King, as much as the King ſhould have received by virtue of his aſſignment. And, if at the end of the ſaid four years, the King ſhould not have received twenty thouſand pounds by virtue of the ſaid Duke's aſſignment, then the King's payment of the ſaid five thouſand pounds a year to the ſaid Duke, to ceaſe, until the King ſhould have received more than the ſaid twenty thouſand pounds, paid by virtue of the ſaid aſſignment.

The duke of Ormond received this five thouſand pounds a year for four years, and in the lord Aungier's ſtate of the revenue, whereupon my lord Ranelagh's propoſals were grounded; this five thouſand pounds a year is reckoned upon as payable to the duke of Ormond, during the whole time of the ſaid lord Ranelagh's contract.

But at the end of the ſaid four years, this payment of five thouſand pounds *per annum* to the duke of Ormond ceaſed, in regard the King had not then received ſo much by virtue of the ſaid duke's aſſignment, as the twenty thouſand pounds that the ſaid duke had received in thoſe four years from the King.

The King hath ſince received the greateſt part of the ſaid three hundred thouſand pounds, and the laſt ſum payable to compleat the whole payment

thereof, being about thirty one thouſand pounds, is this preſent year applotted upon the whole kingdom, to be paid at Lady-day laſt, and Michaelmas laſt, by even proportions; which when received, the whole three hundred thouſand pounds will be paid; and the duke of Ormond now expects that his payment of five thouſand pounds a year ſhall again begin, and be continued unto him until he ſhall have received twenty thouſand pounds more, or thereabouts, that the King will receive by virtue of his aſſignment, beſides the ſaid twenty thouſand pounds already paid.

The duke of Ormond can at the utmoſt expect to receive but five thouſand pounds more for this preſent year from the King, before my lord Ranelagh's contract determines at Chriſtmas next, within which time the whole reſidue of the three hundred thouſand pounds will be due and payable to my lord Ranelagh and partners; ſo that at the end of their contract there will be at the leaſt, about ſeventeen thouſand pounds due from the King to the duke of Ormond, to be paid him by five thouſand pounds a year from Chriſtmas next, out of the revenue here; and the whole money aſſigned to the King in conſideration of this five thouſand pounds a year, will grow due before Chriſtmas next.

So that unleſs my lord Ranelagh and his partners, at the end of their contract, leave as much money in the treaſury of what was aſſigned to the King by the duke of Ormond, as will ſatisfy the duke of Ormond what will be then due to him from the King; there will be a loſs to the King of ſo much as will remain unpaid to the duke of Ormond, at the end of the lord Ranelagh's contract.

To Mr. Secretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, May 8, 1675.

YOU will, encloſed with this letter, receive a petition, anſwer, and replication in an affair relating to my lord duke of Ormond, I was indeed proceeding to a determination of this matter; but upon review of ſome of my papers, I found an order of council, dated January 14, 1673-4, wherein are theſe words, "in which time his grace will be "able to make out and repreſent unto his Majeſty "that matter;" which ſeem to me as if his Majeſty had reſerved the hearing of this affair to himſelf, whereupon I thought it my duty to deſiſt, and for the preſent, that no wrong might be done to either in the caſe, I ordered by conſent of both parties, that the two thouſand five hundred pounds, being the money now payable at May, ſhould remain depoſited in the hands of the farmers of Cork-houſe till the eighteenth of June next, before which time, I hope his Majeſty may pleaſe to give a final determination to this matter; and now that I am upon the ſubject of the year's value, and the payment to my lord of Ormond out of it; the duty of my place obliges me to give his Majeſty an account of a particular within that fund, which may raiſe ſome diſpute at the cloſe of my lord Ranelagh's contract, and indeed I conceive it were for his Majeſty's ſervice, that the thing were determined ſomething earlier: the caſe itſelf is ſtated at large in one of the papers here encloſed, marked IV, it concerns the King to the value of ſeventeen thouſand pounds; it were ſtrange if my lord Ranelagh ſhould receive the whole fund, out of which originally my lord of Ormond was

to be anſwered his money, and the King remain liable to the payment of ſeventeen thouſand pounds thereof after the expiration of their patent; and I am of opinion that this was not thought of at the cloſe of the agreement with my lord Ranelagh, but doubtleſs it were very convenient, that the matter before the re-applotment were all collected, were taken into conſideration, and ſome way or other adjuſted. The almoſt three years experience I have had in this employment, makes me know that any man does unwiſely to argue by letters from this ſide of the water, a point againſt one, and that ſo dexterous a man, as my lord Ranelagh, being on the place; wherefore having ſtated the caſe, I have done that which was fit for me to do, and leave the remaining part to ſuch further directions as his Majeſty ſhall give therein. Your letter of the firſt of May which I received laſt night, giving me an account that mine of the 24th of April was come to your hands, was moſt welcome to me, not doubting but the intrigue of the affair I then writ to you about, will be fully diſcloſed.

I am,

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

Not knowing what method to hold for repreſenting things of this nature, it being, as I hear, a diſpute in council, with whom I am to correſpond, I have therefore ſent duplicates of the encloſed papers to my lord treaſurer as well as tranſmitted them to yourſelf.

In this letter to mr. ſecretary Coventry, as alſo in that of the ſame date to my lord treaſurer, were encloſed

cloſed copies of the petition, anſwer and replication, order of council, account of monies paid to meriting perſons, ſtate of the caſe between his Majeſty and lord Ranelagh, &c. and likewiſe of ſome clauſes in lord Ranelagh's, &c. contract.

To Mr. Harbord.

Mr. Harbord, Dublin Caſtle, May 8, 1674.

I Have yours of May 1ſt, wherein you give me a good account of proceedings in England, which I deſire you will continue to do; your letter gives me no occaſion of anſwer, ſave only one part, which I am confident is a miſtake in you, yet leſt it might concern me, I do now write to you that ſubject; the words of your letter are, "there was a "petition two days ſince at our door againſt Eſſex, "whoſe decrees are much complained of, but I be-"lieve it's ſuppreſt." I cannot imagine how this can relate to myſelf, in regard of the word decrees, but rather ſuppoſe it may concern the lord keeper of England, or my lord chancellor here; however I have been conſidering with myſelf what there is done by me, which may bear the nature either of judgments or decrees, and who thoſe are which may think themſelves aggrieved, or have any colour (for ſolid ground, I am confident, they can have none) of complaints againſt me; the orders of councils may be eſteemed decrees, but I know not of any to be of diſguſt, except thoſe concerning this city, at my firſt coming over, which did indeed diſtate the ſeditious party there, but for theſe, if we are heard, I am ſure I can fully juſtify them, for things done by myſelf there

are none that relate to *meum* and *tuum*, but the debts due from the army, and for thoſe they are I am certain, as carefully managed as can be in the world. Of many hundred of petitions, I may ſay a thouſand, I am confident there are not ten in the whole, but have been agreed by conſent of both parties, and ordered accordingly: two caſes there are indeed of this nature, wherein the creditors ſeem diſſatisfied.

I. The one is between one Caſs, (who by the way I hear is gone into England) and one Thompſon, a ſerjeant of the royal regiment: the truth of the ſtory is thus, Thompſon owed Caſs fifteen pounds, for which Caſs petitioned, and upon the reference, mr. Holroyd calling the parties according to cuſtom before him, tho' he found Caſs very peeviſh, yet agreed the matter by conſent, that Thompſon ſhould pay the fifteen pounds at two gales, as the report mentions afterward; this Caſs going home to his wife, who had ſome peeviſh quarrel with Thompſon, ſhe exaſperated her huſband to inſiſt upon the having the benefit of the law, and indeed did not value the debt ſo much as to arreſt this Thompſon, to put affronts upon him, and that only in ſpight; ſo as this Caſs came the next morning to the ſecretary's office, and finding mr. Holroyd there, flung down his petition and report, and told him that he would have the benefit of the law, and that he cared not a f—t for them all, and that a privy counſellor would do his buſineſs for him, this mr. Holroyd, who is now in London, can ſwear to, if occaſion requires it, this report being brought to me, and an account of theſe particulars, I ſaid that I would not have men jeſt with me, and give conſent, and afterwards fly off as they pleaſed, and affront thoſe whom I employed,

and

and thereupon directed an order anſwerable to the report.

The other is between one Knight, a ſoldier in the earl of Arran's company, and one Baker, a townſman of Dublin, the latter of which petitioned to have the benefit of the law againſt Knight, for two hundred pounds which he owed him, the petition being referred to mr. Holroyd, there appeared an old agreement for the payment of the two hundred pounds at ſeveral gales, and the reporter did certify, that he thought it reaſonable that Baker ſhould be held to this agreement, and that the other was content to pay at thoſe times, and an order was drawn accordingly purſuant to the report. I well remember when this was brought to me, I looked upon two hundred pounds to be a great ſum, and conceived it unreaſonable for me to order any agreement of ſo conſiderable a value, to be valid, if it were not ſo in law, uſually the caſe of ſoldiers debts were within that narrow compaſs, as I could direct payment out of their perſonal pay, and by that keep the creditors; but this was ſuch a ſum as Knight's pay would never anſwer, and beſides I looked upon the agreement as a little extravagant in giving ſix years time for payment, I therefore refuſed ſigning the order, and commanded mr. Beecher to carry it to my lord chief juſtice to peruſe and conſider well of it; who did ſo, and returned it with ſome words of amendment, written with my lord chief juſtice's own hand, which being thus brought back, I ſigned it.

And now I have done this long letter, I am confident it is to no purpoſe, but that you have only miſtaken the figure of your cypher 38 for 83, if ſo, pray take a little care of your figures for the time

to come, otherwiſe you may run me into a multitude of errors. I cannot imagine that barely the being in employment, ſhould in this age be eſteemed a crime, if ſo, all government muſt ceaſe, and for my own particular, I ſhall only deſire, if any matter be ſtarted againſt me, I may have a little time to examine my papers, and I ſhall juſtify myſelf; however, let all men reflect, that this my employment is very great, and ſo numerous are the papers I muſt ſet my hand to, as it is impoſſible for me to peruſe them all, tho' I did nothing but read day and night; let any man, who is but a juſtice of peace, ſeriouſly conſider whether he does not every year commit many faults in relation to his office; if he acts not at all, he breaks his oath, and if he does act, the laws are ſo various which guide him, as 'tis impoſſible for any man in that employment to be ſpotleſs; nevertheleſs this I am ſure I can ſay, that no man throughout the whole kingdom can juſtly accuſe me of any notorious oppreſſion or injuſtice of any kind, or that I have done any irregular thing for profit to myſelf, or favour to a friend, and upon theſe grounds I ſleep quiet, and am very much at eaſe.

I remain,
Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To

To the Lord Aungier.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, May 8, 1675.

I Have yours of the 27th of April, and give your lordſhip thanks for the intelligence therein. Methinks you begin pretty warmly in the houſe of commons, but I hope all will conclude well for his Majeſty's ſervice. My other letters take me up ſo much time, as I have no leiſure to ſay any more, but remain,

Your lordſhip's
moſt faithful and affectionate ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, May 11, 1675.

THIS laſt packet brought me the welcome news of the votes paſſed in the houſe of commons relating to your lordſhip, and tho' I have ever hoped, that nothing of moment could be ever fixed upon you to your diſadvantage, yet knowing how buſy faction, and the animoſities of men, always are againſt thoſe who poſſeſs great places; I could not, without ſome anxiety attend the ſucceſs. I aſſure myſelf, my congratulation will not come unſeaſonably, tho' later than others, it being diſpatched as ſoon as the diſtance of place will admit, and is as real as any who pretended theirs earlier, and as your lordſhip will believe me to be one who wiſheth you may long enjoy the

the employment you hold with honour to yourſelf, and advantage to his Majeſty's ſervice.

I am,
Your lordſhip's moſt faithful
and moſt humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Conway.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, May 11, 1675.

I HAVE two of your lordſhip's, the latter dated the 4th inſtant; as to what relates to the diſcourſe at the council table, it was wrote not only to myſelf, but to three other perſons of conſiderable quality, and all that ſame which I recited in my former letter to your lordſhip; yet however, if five hundred men ſhould ſay it, and my lord Treaſurer himſelf deny it, I ſhall not at all believe the thing.

I am glad to find the matters tend ſo much to an union in parliament, and I hope they will riſe in good temper. I cannot preſume to judge of things there, eſpecially my whole mind having been for theſe three years only turned to the affairs of this kingdom, but to my apprehenſion, if the parliament do comply ſo far as to give the leaſt ſum of money that can be, the reputation of his Majeſty and the parliament being well together, will be of ſo great advantage to his Majeſty's intereſts both at home and abroad, as the credit of this will be of much more value than any money they can give, and probably at winter they will do more; ſure I am, that if they be brought to

any

any thing of this ſort, the King is much obliged, and ought to value thoſe perſons who are ſo inſtrumental and aſſiduous in his affairs.

That concerning my lord Hallifax, ſeems the pleaſanteſt fetch that I have known, however it pleaſeth me much to receive inſtances, as I do upon all occaſions, of the firmneſs of my lord Treaſurer's kindneſs to me. There are ſome little things wherein I conceive my lord Ranelagh is in ſome meaſure to blame, and thoſe relate to myſelf in particular, and truly, when I know this of any, I am not ſcrupulous either in telling it themſelves, or writing to ſome friends that may diſcouſe it with them. Your lordſhip knows well that my lord Ranelagh has ever many irons in the fire, and deſigns on foot at court to make friends, therefore for ſome of theſe purpoſes, he aſſiſts ſeveral perſons towards the getting of letters for grants in this country; and then when any of theſe proves unreaſonable, he tells the perſons that it is not his fault they do not receive the benefit of them, but it lies at my door; this he did both when he was here, and ſince in England, as I could give ſeveral inſtances, particularly my lady Stephens, whom he told, that if I would give an order upon her letter, ſhe ſhould have her money. Whereas indeed 'tis the duty of the vice-treaſurer to obſtruct letters, rather than forward them, and when ſuch letters do come, it is proper for the lieutenant, if he ſuſpect any thing of inconvenience, to refer them to the vice-treaſurer, whoſe report ſhould ſignify any ill conſequences ariſing from ſuch gifts; and for this point I muſt acknowledge his partners have done me great right, and taken off from me by the ſeveral reports they have made on his Majeſty's letters, the clamours which men who are denied

nied would caſt upon me; now if inſtead of this, my lord Ranelagh does always tell perſons that the fault lies in me, that they have not their monies and letters paſſed; tho' this is not an abſolute defiance, yet it is an endeavour to give me what trouble and diſquiet he can in my employment, and indeed the going contrary to the very duty of his own place. I wiſh your lordſhip would diſcourſe this matter with him, and ſet him right, for truly there is trouble enough in performance of this office, and no need that his Majeſty's miniſters, who are ſubordinate to the lieutenant, ſhould create any more vexation to him.

I have nothing further to add, but to give your lordſhip thanks for your continued kindneſs to me, and to aſſure you, that I am, with all reality,

Your lordſhip's moſt faithful
and moſt affectionate ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Harbord.

Mr. Harbord, Dublin Caſtle, May 11, 1675.

I Have yours of the 4th of May, and in it an account of the parliament's proceedings; we have nothing here to give you notice of, and therefore my letter will be ſo much the ſhorter. I conceive this is a very inconvenient time to mention any thing of money, and therefore the grace that was intended me by his Majeſty, I deſire it may abſolutely reſt at preſent, and not one word be ſpoken of it.

it. I would have you ſpeak to mr. Henry Howard, or the earl of Suffolk, that I may have three of my mares covered by ſome of his ſtallions, being unprovided myſelf; and ſend the encloſed note to Canterbury ſo ſoon as may be; and alſo tell my brother Henry that I have his of the 5th inſtant.

Mr. Petyt does fail in ſending the journals of the houſe of peers; there hath but one of them come ſince the ſitting of the parliament, but thoſe of the houſe of commons have conſtantly been tranſmitted. The encloſed comes from a gentleman now a priſoner in the King's bench, who is ſelling ſome land near Hadham, pray let him know I am not in a purchaſing condition, ſo that he may diſpoſe of it to any other.

I am,

Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Hallifax.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, May 15, 1675.

THIS gentleman, major Ratcliffe, having ſome occaſions which call him into England, I could not let him go, without accompanying him with a letter to let your lordſhip know, that according to your firſt recommendation, I find him a careful diligent officer, and every way a very good man. The outſkirt of the world where I am, furniſheth us with little matter worth the troubling your lordſhip at any time, which makes me not ſo often entertain you with any of my letters, yet however, I doubt not but your

your lordſhip will believe that my wiſhes for your happineſs and proſperity are ſtill the ſame as ever, and that my endeavours ſhall not be wanting upon all opportunities to evidence the reality of my being,

Your lordſhip's moſt faithful
and moſt humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Doctor Fell.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, May 15, 1675.

THIS gentleman, mr. Moore, is ſon to a very conſiderable nobleman of this kingdom, the earl of Drogheda, who having ſent him into England in order to his ſtudies, and for that end intending to place him in the univerſity of Oxford, his lordſhip deſired me to write a line or two to acquaint you therewith; which having done, I doubt not but you will pleaſe to afford this young nobleman your countenance and protection, wherein you will lay an obligation upon,

Your moſt faithful ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Thinne.

Mr. Thinne, Dublin Caſtle, May 18, 1675.

I Have received yours of the 11th of May, and there being little here worth the ſending, I ſhall not this packet trouble mr. Secretary with a letter, but only remit to you the encloſed papers, which was a complaint made in England by a miniſter of this country, who pretended he was illegally caſt out of his livings, which had it been ſo, he ought doubtleſs to have firſt come to me before he had offered his petition to his Majeſty; and beſides, I preſume the maſters of requeſt are not the proper officers for ſuch things, but the ſecretaries. I have therefore encloſed my lord Primate's report, that you may give it mr. ſecretary Coventry, to ſhew him what manner of petitions men venture to offer.

I am,

Your moſt affectionate ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Conway.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, May 18, 1675.

YOU cannot expect any long letter from me, here being nothing of conſequence to communicate to you, the affairs of the country reſting now ſo much upon what we ſhall hear from your ſide. I have received yours of the 11th of May, together with a very kind letter from my lord treaſurer; and this

this letter I ſhall anſwer by the next packet. I cannot help the errors, which they who are related to me do commit, but ſhall be ſure for my own part to carry myſelf juſtly and evenly towards all, and friendly to thoſe who have obliged me. That men do labour to work miſchief, and create diſquiet to one in my ſtation, is no new thing, for I believe it was never otherwiſe, but I doubt not to be ſupported by the juſtice of my actions, and the firmneſs I will ever ſhew in the punctual obeying of his Majeſty's commands.

It ſeems to me but an ill omen, that the houſe of commons are ſo ready to take fire one againſt another, I pray God the temper of the nation be not the ſame; this kingdom may be looked upon as the quieteſt part of his Majeſty's dominions, and I am confident may be kept ſo with any ordinary prudence, for there is nothing troubleſome here but the pretty feuds of the city of Dublin, which I perceive do ſtill increaſe, yet a good round way of dealing with them will I preſume ſet all at reſt.

I have ſpoken to my lord Colooney for a goſhawk, who tells me he has three airies, and therefore I ſuppoſe I ſhall not fail of one ſo ſoon as they are ready to be taken. I am with perfect truth,

Your lordſhips moſt faithful,
And moſt affectionate ſervant,
ESSEX.

To

To the King.

Dublin Caſtle, May 22, 1675.

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

WHILST the parliament was ſitting, I concluded ſo many other important affairs would fill your thoughts, as your Majeſty could not well be at leiſure to take the concerns of this kingdom into conſideration, and therefore I have hitherto forborn the diverting your Majeſty with any of my letters, though ſome occaſions have ariſen, where there was need enough of knowing your Majeſty's particular pleaſure, for I have heard that ſeveral diſputes have been of late between ſome of your Majeſty's principal miniſters, concerning the paſſing of grants, &c. in Ireland; whatever their precedents are, I am ſure your Majeſty's pleaſure is a law in this caſe; and whether your Majeſty do think fit to keep the old rules, or to model this matter into new methods, I ſhall punctually obey your Majeſty's orders.

This conjuncture (the expiration of my lord Ranelagh's contract, as alſo that of the farmers, drawing ſo near as Chriſtmas next) will occaſion many ſignal alterations in the affairs of this kingdom, and therefore that all may be duly ſettled, and that I may more clearly know what meaſures I am to obſerve for the future, I do humbly propoſe to your Majeſty, whether it may not be convenient, I made a journey for ſome little time into England, and upon theſe following conſiderations.

1ſt, That your Majeſty may be truly informed of the ſtate of this kingdom, this was perſonally given by my lord of Strafford, twice in the time of his

government. 2dly, That your Majeſty may underſtand of what uſe and advantage this kingdom (if rightly managed) may be to the ſupport and ſtrengthening of your other dominions. 3dly, That preparations may be made for the calling of a parliament here, and the heads of ſuch public bills propoſed, as may be proper to be offered there; and that your Majeſty may have ſome proſpect given you, what hopes there are of obtaining a ſupply from the people, for the repairs of neceſſary forts, ſtoring the magazines, and other public occaſions. 4thly, In regard my lord Ranelagh's contract, and the farmers term, do both determine at Chriſtmas next, it muſt of neceſſity be ſpeedily reſolved, whether the revenue ſhall be kept in farm, or for ſome time taken into management; if it be new farmed, theſe old farms muſt be abſolutely agreed with, ſo as to preclude them from levying any arrears due to them during their time, or otherwiſe the new ones will be entitled to defalcations. If the revenue be kept in management, proper and experienced perſons muſt be nominated commiſſioners, to take charge thereof, and whether the one or the other be concluded, ſome inſtructions muſt be propoſed for the chief governor to obſerve, to prevent your Majeſty's running again into debt. Laſtly, a new eſtabliſhment is to be framed, ſuitable to the revenue which is likely to accrue to your Majeſty, after the determination of the preſent farm. 5thly, In order to the rendering your Majeſty's revenue certain for the future, 'tis requiſite that the quit-rents (a principal branch thereof) be compleatly ſettled, which can only be done by abating them on ſuch lands as are unprofitable, and providing how the arrears due from them ſhall be anſwered; this work I have taken ſome pains to model, and have com-

compleated it, but 'twill be ſo difficult to make the reaſons of it intelligible, and to anſwer the ſeveral objections that may be made againſt it, unleſs I were upon the place, I know not how it may be done, in ſuch manner, as to convince the world of the clearneſs and reaſonableneſs of the thing. 6thly, The books for the diſcovery of concealed lands being now compleated, and ready to be ſent over, much matter will ariſe upon this ſubject, to propoſe to your Majeſty in order to the finding out ſuch lands as are fraudulently detained, and concerning the diſtribution of them, purſuant to the acts of Settlement. 7thly, That I may from your Majeſty's own mouth receive directions, in what manner, and to what points, I ſhall correſpond with each of your great miniſters.

If theſe ſeveral heads be of that weight, as your Majeſty doth conceive it to be of advantage to your ſervice, that I were upon the place when they are debated and ſettled, I ſhall moſt readily give my attendance there, in obedience to your commands, which in all things ſhall guide the proceedings of,

Your Majeſty's moſt humble and moſt
obedient ſubject and ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, May 22, 1675.

I MUST give your lordſhip thanks for the favour of your letter on the 11th of May, which doth ſufficiently ſhew what arts are uſed to create miſunderſtandings between us; and as it ſeems this is endeavoured by divers on that ſide the water, ſo I can aſſure your lordſhip there are ſome in this kingdom who do their parts as cunningly therein; for it is unimaginable how many ridiculous reports are here raiſed upon this ſubject; but as theſe paſs unregarded by me, ſo I doubt not your lordſhip will do the like juſtice by giving no credit to the vain ſpeeches of men, who would drive on their own deſigns of miſchieving us both; and that you will ever by my actions judge of the ſincerity of thoſe profeſſions, I make of ſerving your lordſhip. I am very confident could I have the good fortune but to wait on your lordſhip ſome few hours, it would for ever clear my integrity, and fix me unmoveable in your good opinion. But conſidering the nature of my employment, it is a happineſs that I have often wiſhed, tho' without the hopes of enjoying. Yet now at this conjuncture of affairs I am apt to perſuade myſelf it might be of conſiderable importance to his Majeſty's ſervice, that after the parliament were riſen, and a leiſure time to conſider of the affairs of this country, I were upon the place for a month or ſix weeks, and that upon theſe conſiderations.

1ſt, That his Majeſty might have an account of the ſtate of the whole kingdom, which cannot be ſo well delineated by letters, as it may be deſcribed by diſcourſe.

2dly,

2dly, That preparations might be made for holding a parliament here, and the heads of ſuch matters as are there to be treated on, reſolved.

3dly, In regard that my lord Ranelagh's contract, and the farm, both determine at Chriſtmas next, that it may be conſidered whether it will be propereſt to put the revenue again immediately into farm, or rather that for ſome time it be kept in management; upon both which much may be ſaid.

4thly, A new eſtabliſhment muſt be prepared, wherein doubtleſs it is proper the chief governor were conſulted.

5thly, The books for diſcovery of lands being all now compleated, and ready to be tranſmitted into England, rules muſt be agreed on in what manner to proceed to the diſcovery of theſe concealments, and alſo by what methods theſe lands ſhall be diſtributed.

6thly, The reducing ſeveral of the quit-rents upon unprofitable lands, and making ſome concluſion with the preſent farmers for the arrears; a work highly neceſſary for the public good of this kingdom; as alſo for the future aſcertaining of his Majeſty's revenue, the model whereof is prepared; but there are ſo many objections againſt it, as to anſwer them all I have drawn up a little tract by way of dialogue, which I have ſent over by Mr. Godolphin, that your lordſhip may ſee what large diſcourſes muſt be writ upon every head to make them intelligible, if matters of theſe natures be tranſacted in England, and the lieutenant not upon the place.

7thly, To conſider and reſolve upon ſome courſe, for compoſing the differences and diſorders of the city

of Dublin. I have no private occaſions of my own, which require my coming or ſtay in England, and therefore if his Majeſty ſhould think fit to command me over, I ſhould be glad to be diſpatched back again ſo ſoon as may be; and I am apt to believe if I am upon the place, and the committee for Iriſh affairs do regularly meet, that a third part of that time would conclude theſe matters, which would otherwiſe be ſpent in the debates of them, if I were abſent. I have had many ſtruggles in the two years and half that I have been here, and divers difficulties have attended the employment, being often put by the duty of my place to deny ſeveral requeſts, for which ſuch orders have come out of England, as would have much prejudiced his Majeſty's ſervice to comply with; and the experience I have now had, gives me light enough to diſcover the ſources from whence theſe ariſe. In relation to the future regulating of things of this nature, a little diſcourſe with his Majeſty will be of more effect than many letters; and herein I cannot but promiſe myſelf all deſirable aſſiſtance from your lordſhip. For as I hope to make it apparent that nothing I propoſe ſhall tend to other than the public benefit; ſo I am well aſſured that theſe foundations, as they gave the beginning and eſtabliſhment, ſo they will yet further confirm the entire good correſpondence which your lordſhip has ever been pleaſed to favour me with, who am with all ſincerity and reſpect imaginable,

Your lordſhip's moſt faithful
and moſt humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

Mr. Godolphin hath directions to diſcourſe with your lordſhip at large upon all theſe particulars.

To

To Mr. ſecretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, May 22, 1675.

I HAVE ſent over Mr. Godolphin to diſcourſe with you concerning this government, the expiration of my lord Ranelagh's contract, as alſo of the farm drawing ſo near as Chriſtmas next, will of neceſſity make ſo great a change in the diſpoſition of affairs here, as it may ſeem reaſonable for his Majeſty's ſervice that I made a journey into England this ſummer; ſo as being upon the place when matters of ſo much importance relating to this kingdom are modelled, I may have the opportunity to propoſe ſuch things as are proper to be offered for his Majeſty's and this country's good: beſides, this of the farm, and my lord Ranelagh's contract, there are divers other particulars of very great moment on the anvil, and are of ſuch a nature, as 'tis impoſſible for me, unleſs I wrote volumes, and ſent them over, to explain them ſo clearly, as to render them intelligible. For the heads of all which, I muſt refer you to a paper Mr. Godolphin hath to preſent unto you. I can foreſee no objection to my coming, but that it will occaſion ſomewhat of expence to his Majeſty, in maintaining juſtices upon the place during my abſence. But doubtleſs the other conſiderations will infinitely countervail that; and beſides, I hope this little charge may be an argument, when I am there, to obtain a more ſpeedy diſpatch, which I ſhall much deſire, ſo ſoon as theſe ſeveral particulars are ſettled.

I need add no more to you upon this ſubject, leaving the reſt to Mr. Godolphin's narration, whom I have

found ſo good a ſervant, as you may credit what he ſhall relate from me.

I am,
Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

My lord lieutenant conceives it neceſſary, in order to his Majeſty's ſervice, that his excellency ſhould come into England this ſummer, for a month or ſix weeks, upon the following conſiderations.

1ſt, That his Majeſty may have an account of the whole ſtate of the kingdom. This was given by the earl of Strafford twice or thrice, within the time of his government.

2dly, Concerning the calling of the parliament here next year, and propoſing the heads of ſeveral public bills; and alſo what proſpect may be had of ſupplies for the repair of neceſſary forts, recruiting the ſtores, and other public occaſions, which may require it.

3dly, In regard the whole frame of affairs here muſt be new modelled, againſt the expiration of my lord Ranelagh's contract; which, as alſo the farm of his Majeſty's revenue here, will determine at Chriſtmas next, it ought therefore to be conſidered,

1ſt, Whether it be better for his Majeſty to let his revenue in farm, or to keep it in management. If the latter be agreed on, it will be requiſite that commiſſioners be thought of to take care of that affair.

affair. 2dly, Some rules and inſtructions muſt be agreed on, for the lieutenant to guide himſelf by, in relation to the revenue; as for inſtance, that which has diſordered his Majeſty's affairs ſo much, and brought him into debt here, is this, that letters for gifts and gratuities were obtained in England, which the lieutenant, as ſoon as they come over, immediately granted warrants upon, without conſidering whether there were a fund clear for anſwering the ſame (nay the vice treaſurer, viz. my lord of Angleſey, did often warrant the lord lieutenant, and had letters immediately directed to himſelf, for the payment of monies) which warrants, upon his Majeſty's letters, with acquittances from the perſons concerned, were ſufficient vouchers upon paſſing the vice treaſurers accounts; and he then telling the perſons there was no money in the treaſury, and that he muſt borrow what he furniſhed them with; compounded with them at what rates himſelf pleaſed; and took acquittances for the whole: nay, it was the practice not to pay the money even for theſe compoſitions, till the whole was paſſed upon account in the exchequer; ſo that ſuch great gains being to be made by monies payable on letters, theſe were anſwered as in the manner above-named, and the eſtabliſhment left unpaid. To obviate which inconvenience for the future, it may be thought neceſſary that the lieutenant have a poſitive inſtruction not to iſſue any warrant upon any letters of bounty, till the eſtabliſhment be paid, and to ſee the fund clear to anſwer the ſame; by which means his Majeſty will be kept out of debt, and the perſons on whom he ſhall be pleaſed to beſtow his liberality, will receive the full benefit thereof, without compoſition or deduction, other than the regular fees. That whatſoever letters

come

come, the lieutenant ſign no orders for placing any payment in the eſtabliſhment, beyond what the certain revenue will bear. Others alſo of the ſame neceſſity, and like kind, may be propoſed.

3dly, A new eſtabliſhment muſt be framed, wherein will be ſeveral things fit to be diſcourſed of, which cannot ſo well be writ at large in letters.

4thly, By his Majeſty's command, all the records of the kingdom, which relate to the diſtribution of lands, by the act of Settlement, have been ſearched, and extracts made out of them, in order to the diſcovery of concealed lands. This work is contained in twelve or fourteen volumes, now ready to be ſent over, and much matter will ariſe upon this ſubject, to propoſe to his Majeſty, in order to the finding out ſuch lands as are fraudulently concealed, and concerning the diſtribution of them, purſuant to the acts of Settlement.

5thly, There is a neceſſary work which is near compleated, viz. the future ſettlement of his Majeſty's revenue of quit-rents, which muſt be done by abating them on ſuch lands as are unprofitable; and alſo by providing in ſome meaſure, to anſwer the arrears due to the farmers; and to ſhew how much muſt be ſaid to explain this one particular, and make it intelligible, a dialogue is drawn up for that purpoſe, which may be looked upon; and this may be one inſtance for all, to evidence how much muſt be writ upon the ſeveral heads of theſe matters tranſacted in England, and the lieutenant not upon the place.

6thly, To

6thly, To conſider of ſome courſe, to compoſe the diſorders of the city of Dublin.

If the lieutenant be in Ireland, and my lord Ranelagh be in England, when this point ſhall be reſolved, he will infallibly have the nomination of all the commiſſioners; and it will be a great hardſhip that the lieutenant ſhall be anſwerable for all miſcarriages, and not to have his part in the recommendation of thoſe perſons who are to be intruſted with the collection of public monies, but will be kept in the dark by the vice treaſurer, and not be able to know any thing of the treaſury, but what he pleaſeth to communicate to him. If the lieutenant be not in England when this is done, my lord Ranelagh will inſert penſions for whom he pleaſeth, and perhaps procure ſums of money for ſeveral whom it may be convenient for him to gratify, and thereby divert the addreſſes and applications of all officers and ſuitors to himſelf, who ought to have their immediate dependance on the lieutenant.

To the Earl of Caſtlehaven.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, May 22, 1675.

I Have received yours of the 15th inſtant, wherein you deſire the paſſing a grant for an additional penſion, directed by letter of his Majeſty's, dated April 18, 1674, to be paid on the eſtabliſhment. Your lordſhip cannot be ignorant that this whole revenue is at preſent out of his Majeſty's hands, and transferred to my lord Ranelagh, &c. in order to the payment of debts, and anſwering an eſtabliſhment which

which is not to exceed 171843l. 5s. 6d. This being compleatly filled up, if his Majeſty grant any more than the fore-mentioned ſum on the eſtabliſhment, 'tis in my lord Ranelagh and partners choice to ſtop the money; whereas, for example, if the grant be complied with, they may forbear the payment of 100l. per annum, to any one troop of the army or the like. I have divers letters of the ſame nature before me; as one for 300l. penſion to colonel Willoughby, another of 200l. per annum to lord Roche's children, and ſome more of the ſame kind, which, ſhould I purſue it, would bring all the affairs into confuſion, and I could not be certain of having the troops or the civil liſt duly paid. 'Tis poſſible, ſome who are ſubtle enough on that ſide the water where your lordſhip is, to caſt it off from themſelves, may lay the weight of denying men upon me, and ſo may tell your lordſhip that the money ſhould be anſwered, if I would do my part; and perhaps they may inſtance the fund for the main regiment, concordatums, or other things; but were I upon the place, I could ſo clearly ſhew how all theſe are cloyed with payments, and anticipated with aſſignments, as 'tis impoſſible for me to do it. Mr. Godolphin, the bearer hereof, can demonſtrate to your lordſhip, that not any diſreſpect to you, but purely the impoſſibility of effecting it, hath forced me to reſpite the execution of this his Majeſty's letter. And I hope your lordſhip will not believe me (for an omiſſion thus grounded) to be other, than as I am, moſt really,

Your Lordſhip's
faithful humble ſervant,
ESSEX.

To

To Sir Arthur Capel.

Dublin Caſtle, May 25, 1675.

Dear Brother,

I Have received yours of the 18th, but Mr. Godolphin, who parted hence on Saturday, will, I hope, reach London by that time this letter comes to you, and ſo will leave the leſs for me to ſay upon the ſubject you have lately wrote to me. As to my lord duke of Ormond, I cannot imagine why there ſhould be any ſuſpicion of unkindneſs between him and me; for, I am ſure, there is no concern of his here that I have been wanting to the promoting of it, ſo far as was conſiſtent to his Majeſty's ſervice. Not only ſince my coming hither, but even for a good ſpace of time before, there was a good underſtanding between us; and I do not know why I ſhould live ill with any of his Majeſty's miniſters, whilſt I am in his Majeſty's ſervice. There are factions in the court, and thoſe very high againſt each other; but for my taking part with one or the other, I cannot comprehend how it is my buſineſs: therefore you may do well to aſſure my lord of Ormond of my reſpect and ſervice for him. In a former letter you ſpeak of ſome diſpute between my lord Chamberlain and my lord Ranelagh concerning 1250l. I do not well underſtand upon what ground my lord Ranelagh can argue this. I remember it was myſelf diſcovered, on peruſal of my lord Ranelagh's account, that by his contract he undertook to pay my lord of Arlington 6250l. being the ſuppoſed remainder of a grant from his Majeſty of 10000l. If he had but paid my lord of Arlington the 5000l, the 10000l. had been compleated; which aroſe from this, that 1250l. were

paid

paid to my lord of Arlington more than my lord Ranelagh knew of when he made his contract; but my lord Ranelagh having undertaken to pay a determinate ſum of 6250 l. tho' my lord of Arlington could claim no more than the complement of 10000 l. yet my lord Ranelagh was obliged to pay the 6250 l. ſo as the King might beſtow the other 1250 l. where he pleaſed; and, if I miſtake not, there is a letter by me, to grant it to the earl of Arlington. This is the true ſtate of the caſe, and, as I conceive, no body can give a determination to it but the King himſelf. Before the next I ſhall ſpeak with Mr. Leigh, my lord Chamberlain's agent, and then give you a further account of this matter. Pray acknowledge to my lord of Arlington the receipt of his letter of the 13th inſtant, which I ſhall anſwer by the next, having no time to do it now.

I am,

Your moſt affectionate brother,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Harbord.

Dublin Caſtle, May 25, 1675.

Mr. Harbord,

I Have yours of the 18th inſtant, and together with it a memorial concerning ſeveral letters which you have made my lord Treaſurer acquainted with. I have alſo received one of the ſame date from my lord Treaſurer himſelf, the like in effect with

with the memorial in your letter. I fear the differences between the two houſes will cauſe the parliament to break up in ſome diſorder, which will draw ſuch conſequences after it, as may diſcompoſe us all. Two letters from Sir Thomas Blake have come to my hands, wherein he ſeems to excuſe himſelf for having moved ſome buſineſs in England, without having firſt acquainted me with it: though, indeed, all men ought to let me know their pretenſions, before they are ſtirred on that ſide the water; yet this is an honeſt gentleman, and did not fail out of any intention to diſoblige me; therefore I deſire you to let him know I do not take it ill. Forget not to tell my lord Treaſurer that I have his of the 18th, but there being no buſineſs to anſwer, 'twill be enough by you to acknowledge the receipt thereof. As for the farmers, they do not behave themſelves well towards me, nor indeed, fairly towards the King; and why I ſhould have a good opinion of them, whilſt I find them failing, I do not underſtand; for I will keep them to their duty if I can: and this you may let any of them know that are on that ſide the water. Having nothing further to add, I remain,

Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To

To Mr. Harbord.

Dublin Caſtle, May 29, 1675.

Mr. Harbord,

I Have received yours of the 22d inſtant, and doubt not but you will follow the rules therein ſet down, not to engage with any parties whatſoever, but to keep fair with all his Majeſty's miniſters, which is that I have ever reſolved to do. As my lord Ranelagh's contract and the farm grow near expired, ſo I do daily find that there will be much work on my hands at Chriſtmas next to ſettle and adjuſt all things relating to theſe bargains, that his Majeſty's revenue may be in a good poſture, either to keep in management, or to let it to farm; and, I believe, few men in England will be able to judge the many intricacies and perplexities which are in this work.

My lord of Tyrone, as I am told, is ſome time ſince gone for England. He is a peer of the realm, a privy counſellor, governor of the county and city of Waterford, and captain of a foot-company. Any one of theſe qualifications do oblige him to have the lord lieutenant's licence before he depart out of the kingdom. I hear he had ſome preſſing occaſions to go into England, and had he aſked, he ſhould not have been denied leave. But ſhould I not take notice of men, who, being under command, preſume to ſlight the governor ſo much, as to go where they liſt, I might be well thought negligent of his Majeſty's affairs. I would therefore have you ſpeak to both the ſecretaries, deſiring them to ſtop any letters from his Majeſty to licenſe his abſence; it being an inſufferable thing, and of moſt miſchievous conſequence

in

in an army, to let officers go where they please, without acquainting their general therewith. Pray let my lord Conway and lord Ranelagh know, that I have both theirs of the 22d instant. The solemnities of this day take up so much time, that 'tis impossible for me to answer them, but by the next they shall hear from me. Tell my brother Harry also, that I have his of the 22d, and that the last I wrote to him did fully state the case of my lord of Arlington's concerns relating to the 1250l.

I am, your most affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Godolphin.

Dublin Castle, May 29, 1675.

Mr. Godolphin,

THE vessel being returned that carried you over, and giving me an account that they landed you at Chester water on Monday evening, makes me presume this letter will not fail the meeting you at London. The winding up all matters relating to my lord Ranelagh's contract, and the farmers grant (both which must be done at Christmas next) doth every day appear to me full of intricacies; and there are so many considerations to be had in order to his Majesty's future revenue of this kingdom, and those of such natures, as will require not only a great deal of prudence and judgment to manage, but likewise most particular instructions from his Majesty; all which do convince me of the necessity of my spending

ſome little time in England this ſummer: and I fear his Majeſty will be greatly prejudiced, unleſs he be clearly informed of the nature of ſeveral queſtions which will neceſſarily ariſe upon this ſubject: wherefore I doubt not but you will be careful of that errand which carried you for England; and particularly in purſuing your inſtructions, to make it evident to all his Majeſty's miniſters, that it is only propoſed by me for the furtherance of his Majeſty's ſervice,

I am,

Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Secretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, May 29, 1675.

I Have received yours of the 18th inſtant, and am ſorry to find that a perſon of your ſtation and judgment ſhould have ſo many melancholy thoughts concerning affairs, which may well make one, at the diſtance as I am, doubt of the event of things.

One matter, poſſibly of ſome moment, I have to acquaint you with: a Spaniſh ſhip was taken by a French privateer cloſe to the bar of this harbour, and carried away on Thurſday in the evening. We have no civilians here that can inform me how juſtifiable this action is; for, tho' it were a little without the bar the ſhip was ſeized, yet was it within the bar; which may in ſome ſort be reckoned part of the harbour, divers ſhips never coming over, but anchoring without the bar. This accident has much

diſturbed

disturbed the merchants of this town: indeed, I conceive, there ought to be one of his Majesty's frigates attending here, to prevent any insults of this nature; for unless some men of war do secure us, any privateer may come in and do what they please among the ships, who are many of them Dutch, the merchants of this town trading generally in those bottoms. But of this particular affair I have ordered examination to be taken, and by the next shall give you a punctual account of all the circumstances.

I am,

Your most faithful humble servant,

ESSEX.

To the Earl of Arlington.

My Lord, Dublin Castle, May 31, 1675.

YOUR most obliging letter of the 13th of May I received the last week; and tho' I do not often trouble your lordship with any of mine, yet I hope your lordship always finds, that upon any occasion, where my service may be of use to you, I am very forward to act my part; and do assure your lordship, I shall constantly perform it with all the readiness imaginable. It is, I know, a difficult matter, at this distance, to judge of affairs with you: nay, I believe, the most dextrous man that is, tho' upon the place, is yet often to seek how to carry himself. As to my own particular, the plainness of my dealings, I doubt not, will support me at all times. I have often charged my brother and Mr.

Harbord to keep all things concerning me in that tract, without ſhuffling or artifice. I hope they have purſued my concerns in that manner: and I am much the more confirmed in this behalf, by the teſtimony of your lordſhip's letter. If the faction of the world ſhould ſo much change, as that ſteady and downright way which I have always practiſed, ſhould render me uſeleſs to the publick, I ſhould moſt chearfully ſit down at home. But I can never think any pains too great; nor am I ſurprized at any difficulties which do ariſe, whilſt his Majeſty is pleaſed to retain a favourable opinion of me: to the confirmation and continuance whereof, I preſume your lordſhip will ever be aſſiſtant, as the kindeſt part you can do for him, who is moſt unfeignedly,

Your lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Sir Henry Capel.

Dear Brother, Dublin Caſtle, June 1, 1675.

THIS ſerves only to tell you that I have yours of the 25th of May, which gives me an account that Mr. Harbord is gone you know not well whither, and to deſire you to deliver the incloſed to my lord of Arlington. I preſume Mr. Godolphin hath been with you ere this; and till I hear from him I have little more to ſay, but remain,

Your moſt affectionate brother,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Conway.

Dublin Caſtle, June 1, 1675.

My Lord,

NOT being able to write to you myſelf the laſt poſt, I appointed Mr. Harbord to acquaint you, that I had yours of the 22d of May, ſince which time I have had notice from Sir Arthur Forbeſe, that you made ſome doubt whether all the letters you wrote were arrived here. We have received one of the firſt of May, directed to my wife, one to myſelf, and another to my wife, both dated May the 4th, and another to myſelf, dated the 11th, and this laſt to me, of the 22d, ſo as I preſume they are all now acknowledged. By this laſt I perceive my lord Ranelagh takes it not very well, that I have ſent over the caſe ſtated concerning the payment of 5000l. per annum to my lord of Ormond, after the expiration of his contract. I am ſure the caſe deſerves to be reſolved; and by the moſt judicious men I can ſpeak with here, they are clear of opinion ſome courſe ought to be taken to ſecure the King in it. I do not well know how it is conſiſtent with my duty to let it go longer undetermined, ſince the laſt ſupply of the year's value is to come in at Michaelmas next; and for my own part, I will perform the truſt committed to my charge, and not be terrified or put out of my way upon any conſideration whatſoever. As to the ſending theſe papers to Mr. ſecretary Coventry as well as to my lord Treaſurer, I conceive your Lordſhip is in a miſtake, in thinking that by my inſtructions I ought to tranſmit them to my lord Treaſurer only; for the ſcope of theſe inſtructions lead only to this, that when letters

relating to the revenue, or lands, &c. come from the ſecretary's, I am not to paſs them, unleſs my lord Treaſurer's report be inſerted in the ſame letters: and therefore, conſequently, when letters do come without the form, I return copies over to my lord Treaſurer before I give my order upon them. But there is not one word in my inſtructions to exclude the correſponding with the ſecretaries: I muſt keep the buſineſs in that method wherein it formerly was. By a letter from my lord Ranelagh, as well as that of your lordſhip's, I perceive you have made a little more noiſe of that which concerned my lord Ranelagh, relating to grants, than I intended by my letter; for you have been with the King about it, and you have alſo ſhown the letter itſelf to my lord Ranelagh, who is a little ſcandalized, at my ſaying he has many irons in the fire. What I know of this, I had from your lordſhip, that was, aiming to be of the bed-chamber, to be an earl, to be a privy counſellor of England; ſo as what I offered was purely to yourſelf: and tho' there be nothing in that letter of mine but what I can very well juſtify, yet I may, many times, (believing your lordſhip to be my intimate friend) write things to you which will not be convenient to be ſhewn to the parties themſelves. And upon this ground I have writ my thoughts with as much freedom, and perhaps careleſsneſs, as I uſed to diſcourſe with your lordſhip in my cloſet, and ſhall continue ſo to do, preſuming upon the entireneſs of your lordſhip's affections to me; and leaving the uſe thereof to be made as you conceive beſt. I am with perfect truth,

Your lordſhip's moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To

To the Lord Ranelagh.

Dublin Caſtle, June 1, 1675.

My Lord,

BY your lordſhip's of the 22d of May, which I have newly received, I find that my lord Conway has had ſome diſcourſe with you concerning grants here, I cannot but profeſs, that 'tis one of the tendereſt points to a perſon in my ſtation, to caſt on the chief governor the odium of denying ſuch letters of his Majeſty's bounty, as many times indeed cannot be complied with; as alſo to endeavour to procure favours and liberalities, and thereby engaging the dependance on another, which ought to be acknowledged as flowing from his Majeſty's grace: yet, if he who commands here, be not the hand through which theſe are diſpenſed, it will ſoon diſable him from having that influence on the people, as is neceſſary to ſupport the dignity of his place. I am ſure, your lordſhip could not, at your laſt being in Ireland, but obſerve what an intereſt remains of a great man who commanded here many years, by reaſon of the abſolute power he had of gratifying multitudes of people. And I do not know how 'tis poſſible this kingdom will ever be reduced to that true dependance on the crown, as it ought, unleſs ſome means be uſed to convince the world that the like power of doing good to thoſe who are faithful, is intruſted with another Governor, as was with him. Any thing, therefore, which may tend to an undermining or demoliſhing of thoſe ſupports, does conſequently hinder this work, which, I conceive, is highly neceſſary for the King's ſervice. And this I would not ſcruple to ſay, even to his Majeſty himſelf,

tho' another, (and he one whom I had no friendſhip for) were in the place where I am. Wherefore your lordſhip ought not to think it ſtrange, if I am jealous of the ſmalleſt touch upon this ſtring. And I am very confident, that one who is maſter of ſo much reaſon as yourſelf, and that underſtands the conſtitution of this kingdom and people here ſo well as you do, cannot but agree with me in this particular. It were very happy, that all the ſeveral members of the body politick did accord in the performance of their proper functions, as they do in a healthy body natural; for then the like ſtrength and vigour would appear in this, as is often ſeen in the other: but doubtleſs, your lordſhip has no reaſon to take it ill; for when I ſuſpect you do in ſome things exceed the bounds of your place, I tell you gently of it by a friend eſpecially; it being to no other end than to continue and preſerve a good correſpondence betwixt us: and the freedom I have uſed to you in this letter, I deſire you to keep to yourſelf; unleſs you think fit to ſhew it to my lord Conway, or at ſome leiſure time to my lord Treaſurer, there being hints in it relating to a perſon which you cannot miſtake. And, for my own part, I hold it the beſt way of going through with the King's buſineſs, to do it calmly, without falling foul of any man, or engaging myſelf in needleſs conteſts: and for this reaſon I again deſire this letter may not go further than I have already mentioned. By what I have communicated, your lordſhip may eaſily judge of the reality wherewith I am,

Your lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,
ESSEX.

To

To Mr. secretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, June 1, 1675.

THIS ſerves only to encloſe a petition of the 49 officers, it being preſented by them to me. I made anſwer, I could do nothing in the matter, his Majeſty having concluded the paſſing of a grant therein mentioned, to coloniel Cary Dillon, by ſeveral repeated letters; and it lying out of my power, I told them that they muſt make their application in England, if they expected any relief. That you may be acquainted with the whole proceedings relating to this buſineſs, I have ſent you the copies of his Majeſty's letters, as alſo of the repreſentation I made to the lord of Arlington upon this ſubject, all which are here encloſed. I remain

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

The humble petition of the Truſtees appointed to manage the ſecurity of the 49 *officers,*

Humbly ſheweth,

THAT his ſacred Majeſty, taking into his princely conſideration the eminent actings and ſufferings of the ſaid officers in His and the ſervice of his Father, in the war of Ireland, before the 5th of June, 1649; and that nevertheleſs, by the partiality and injuſtice of the late uſurped powers, there was no proviſion made for the ſatisfaction of the ſaid juſt and honourable ſervice, was graciouſly pleaſed,

by

by his publick declaration of the 30th of November, in the twelfth year of his reign, which ſoon after was enacted and made a law by the Acts of Settlement and Explanation, to declare, that all the forfeited lands, tenements, and hereditaments, undiſpoſed of to adventurers and ſoldiers in the counties of Wicklow, Longford, Leitrim, and Donegall, and in the province of Conaught and county of Clare, lying within one mile of the river Shannon, or the ſea, and all the houſes and tenements forfeited within the ſeveral walled towns and corporations, and lands thereunto belonging, not then ſet out to adventurers or ſoldiers (except ſome houſes in Wexford) together with the benefit ariſing from mortgages, ſtatutes-ſtaple and judgments, where the lands were not then diſpoſed, (except as in the ſaid acts is excepted) together with a year, and a year and half's rent impoſed on the ſoldiers, which was afterwards by the Act of Explanation aſcertained and reduced to one hundred thouſand pounds, ſhould be and remain for ſatisfaction of the perſonal arrears of the ſaid officers, in ſuch method, manner, and proportion, as by the ſaid Declaration and Acts are limited and appointed; wherein it is provided, that ſuch of the ſaid officers who had no ſatisfaction in lands or otherwiſe, for ſervice ſince 1649, ſhould be immediately ſatisfied out of the ſaid ſecurities 12s. 6d. per pound, and the remaining part to be equally divided amongſt all and every the commiſſioned officers, who had any arrears due for ſervice in Ireland before the year 1649. That by the ſaid acts great care is taken, that the ſaid ſecurity be ſet out to the ſaid officers, according to their reſpective arrears of pay due unto them, in an equal proportion, with equality and indifferency, without priority, precedency, or preference,

ference, as by the very many clauſes and inſtructions in the ſaid Acts of Settlement and Explanation contained, whereunto the petitioners refer themſelves, it doth and may appear.

That upon the diſtribution of the ſaid ſecurity by his Majeſty's commiſſioners, for executing the acts of Settlement and Explanation, it ſo fell out by reaſon of the ſcantneſs of the ſaid ſecurity, in reference to the debt due to the ſaid officers; and partly by reaſon that very many houſes, and other parts of the ſaid ſecurity were concealed and withheld by divers perſons, who pretended title to the ſame; and no ſufficient time given, or reward propounded, to ſuch as ſhould diſcover what was ſo concealed and withheld.

That the ſaid officers, to whom a ſatisfaction of 12s. 6d. *per* pound, at leaſt, was appointed by the ſaid acts, received after many years attendance, and great expence in attending and proſecuting the ſame, no more than 5 ſhillings in the pound of their debentures, whereof 3s. 1d. in the pound was in houſes or land, 3d. in the pound in Limerick, and one ſhilling and eight pence *per* pound, in the 1000l. appointed to be paid to each of the hundred lots, for which 1000l. which was undoubtedly the beſt and cleareſt part of the ſaid ſatisfaction, the ſaid forty nine officers, upon pretence of a voluntary conſent, ſaid to be given by the ſaid officers, were drawn to accept of a compoſition of three hundred eighty two pounds, odd money, for each of the reſpective 1000l. whereof there was no ſuch compoſition made, till the ſaid officers had reaſon to believe, that no part of the ſaid money ſhould be paid, till ſuch a compoſition were firſt conſented and agreed unto; and yet the whole money deſigned for the ſaid officers, had been, or is now levying on the

ſubject;

ſubject; ſo as your petitioners have received leſs than four ſhillings in the pound of their debentures, all deductions being diſcounted; whereas all other intereſts provided for by the ſaid acts of Settlement and Explanation were preſerved, and kept intire and inviolable. Notwithſtanding all which, your petitioners are given to underſtand, that colonel Cary Dillon, who can have no pretence to better, or other ſatisfaction than your petitioners, and the generality of the 49 officers, hath obtained letters or warrants from his Majeſty, thereby granting unto him a liberty and preference, to place 49 arrears belonging to him, or any other from whom he ſhall acquire the ſame, on any part of the ſaid ſecurity yet concealed or undiſpoſed of, which are to be accepted of in the purchaſe of what ſhall be ſo diſcovered, at the rate of 7s. 6d. in the pound, for the ſaid arrears, to make up a full and compleat ſatisfaction of 12s. 6d. in the pound, for the ſaid arrears; whereas all others have received only 5s. in the pound, whereby the generality of the ſaid officers are endeavoured to be excluded from receiving equal proportions of what remains undiſpoſed of the ſaid ſecurity.

The premiſſes conſidered, and for that the ſaid acts have directed an equality of diſtribution among the ſaid officers, as aforeſaid; and for that, the ſaid colonel Cary Dillon, who endeavours to obtain the whole advantage of what remains undiſpoſed yet of the ſaid ſecurity, can pretend no greater merit in his Majeſty's ſervice, than others of the 49 officers; and nevertheleſs goeth about to elude and render vain the ſaid acts of Settlement and Explanation: in order whereunto, he hath doubtleſs by ſurprize obtained the letters and warrants aforeſaid from his Majeſty, which your petitioners humbly conceive he would not

not have granted, had he been rightly informed, under that truſt, the premiſſes were veſted in him by the acts aforeſaid.

They therefore humbly beſeech your excellency, that if your excellency ſhall not be ſatisfied with the truth of what is alledged in this humble addreſs of your petitioners, they may be admitted by their council to wait upon your excellency; and that you will be pleaſed to make a true repreſentation to his Majeſty, of the whole ſtate of this matter, to the end, that one perſon ſo little concerned in the ſaid ſecurity, may not carry away and appropriate to himſelf the remaining part of that ſecurity, which the ſaid officers have purchaſed, with their own, and the blood of their anceſtors; and is by two acts of parliament to be equally divided among them; and that in the mean time, no letters patents be paſſed under the great ſeal, in purſuance, or by virtue or colour of his Majeſty's ſaid letters and warrants, or any other proceedings made thereupon, till his Majeſty's further pleaſure be ſignified therein.

And your petitioners ſhall pray, &c.

O. St. George.
Ran. Clayton.
Hans Hamilton.
John Cole.
Clanbraſill.
R. Coote.

To

To the Lord Treaſurer.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, June 1, 1675.

I Herewith ſend your lordſhip a petition of the 49 officers, being a matter, whereupon I had long ago repreſented my thoughts to his Majeſty, and received a ſecond and third command. I told them I would meddle no further in it, and therefore they muſt purſue their buſineſs in England; and that I would ſend over a copy of their petition, but that they muſt ſet it on foot there by their own agents. That your lordſhip may know the whole ſtate of the matter, I have here incloſed copies of the king's three letters, and alſo a copy of my own letter to my lord of Arlington, bearing date the 5th of February, 167$\frac{3}{4}$.

Your lordſhip will alſo herewith receive copies of two of his Majeſty's letters, for pardoning the year's value to my lord Kingſton and Sir George Lane; wherein I ſhall make no progreſs, till I hear further from your lordſhip. Juſt as I was writing this, Mrs. Willoughby, wife to colonel Willoughby, brought me a letter from yourſelf, wherein your lordſhip is pleaſed to expreſs your deſire of accommodating her with 2 or 300l. out of the concordatums; if it were poſſible to be done, I ſhould moſt readily comply; but I do aſſure your lordſhip, that there are not above ſixteen hundred pounds remains for all extraordinary occaſions whatſoever; the reſt of the concordatums being charged with conſtant annual payments, ſo as indeed, the whole remaining within our diſpoſe, is ſcarce able to pay for the taking of tories, and ſuch other works by the by, much leſs for keeping his Majeſty's houſes in repair, removing ammunition, or

other

other incidents. So as if I do not furniſh her with this ſum (which however I ſhall uſe my beſt endeavours, if it can be compaſſed) 'tis not out of any diſreſpect to fulfil your lordſhip's motion, but purely becauſe the money is not to be had.

I am, your lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Secretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, June 1, 1675.

IN my laſt, I promiſed you a further account of the Spaniſh ſhip, which was taken in this bay, the particulars whereof, and the ſeveral circumſtances relating thereunto, you will find in the examination herewith encloſed; and that it may be the more intelligible, happening to have a map by me of this port, I have cauſed the places to be marked in it, where the thing was done. Here was another French ſhip lately in this port, which brought ſome goods from France, and owned herſelf to have a commiſſion to take any of the French king's enemies. She went out about three or four days, and is reported to lie at Lambay, being an iſland about two leagues northward from Hoath. 'Tis believed ſhe attends the coming out of ſome Dutch ſhips who are now in the harbour lading goods, to return home. I perceive the merchants of this city, are much diſturbed with theſe proceedings; but we have none here ſkilled in that ſort of learning, to inform me whether theſe French

are

are by the marine laws juſtified in what they have done. For my own part, ſpeaking by gueſs, I am apt to think, that any ſhip within the bay, is doubtleſs under his Majeſty's protection, and ought not to be ſeized; it being the ſame caſe, as to take a ſhip from the mouth of the river of Thames: nay, I doubt whether his Majeſty may not challenge, as his chamber, the whole ſea between England and Ireland, the coaſts on both ſides being his own; and if ſo, when any ſhip is turned the Lands-end in Cornwall, ſhe muſt be allowed to be within his Majeſty's protection, and conſequently not to be ſeized by any. However, if practice and former precedents have not extended his Majeſty's power to theſe large limits, that I imagine; yet ſurely for privateers to hover about the mouth of one of our harbours, as it were beſieging them, and ſeizing ſhips that come in or out, can hardly be regular. I am, I confeſs, a little apprehenſive of ſome affront from theſe French privateers, it being eaſy for them to come into the harbour, at their pleaſure, and there plunder or fire what ſhips they think fit. Nothing can remedy this, but his Majeſty's ſending a ſmall frigate hither (one of twenty or twenty five guns will be beſt) to ſecure us: in former times this port was ſeldom without one or two ſuch, and indeed conſidering the cuſtoms his Majeſty receives here, which is commonly 30000l. *per annum*, I think it may well deſerve to be a little better looked after. Having thus repreſented the whole, I ſhall humbly ſubmit it to his Majeſty's conſideration, and remain,

Your moſt faithful
humble ſervant,
ESSEX.

To

The examination of James Tanner, gent. ſurveyor of the port of Dublin, who being duly ſworn and examined, ſaith, that on the 22d of this inſtant May, a ſmall ſloop, of about 20 tuns, belonging to Breſt, one monſieur Le Gravell, commander, of about twenty years of age, with 36 men, and four guns, came to an anchor, within muſquet ſhot of land, under Bullock, and continued there till the 26th inſtant; and then purſued a Dutch ſhip from Norway, coming into the harbour, and loſt her; then came to an anchor under the hill of Hoath, as near as ſhe could lie.

That on the 29th, a ſhip coming into the bay, from the ſouthward, a Spaniſh bottom, with ten men aboard, from Bilboa, laden with fruits and irons; the ſloop weighed, and with the help of her oars, 16 in number, came up with her, boarded her, and clapt fifteen men of his aboard, about 7 o'clock that evening. Seven of the Spaniards eſcaped before in the boat, at which three guns were fired. The Spaniard was about forty tons, and was taken about two miles from the Bar, ſouthward; about ſeven fathom water; above a league within the two headlands of Hoath and Bullock. About nine that evening, the Spaniſh merchant, pilot, and one private ſeaman, were brought on board the ſloop, the laſt of which, ſeemed to have his hands tortured with matches. She ſtood off to the ſea, with the Spaniſh ſhip, about ten that night, with an intention to go to her poſt. This examinant's cauſe of knowledge, is, that he came on board the ſaid ſhallop, at the very time that the Spaniard was taken.

Cap. & jurat. coram me James Tanner.

29 May, 1675.

John Topham.

To Mr. Secretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, June 2, 1675.

THIS gentleman, Mr. Uſher, will attend you, with a report of mine, upon a reference from his Majeſty. The report itſelf, together with the papers annexed, will ſhew you the ſtate of the caſe; he being only a private perſon, I conceive, will have difficulty enough, in a point of law, to ſtruggle againſt a whole ſociety, and that of the judges and lawyers of this kingdom. I ſhall add no more concerning the matter thereof, it being fully ſet forth in the above mentioned papers, but leave it to his Majeſty's conſideration.

I am,
Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the lord Maſſareen.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, June 4, 1675.

COLONEL Cecil going now to Londonderry, I have appointed him to wait on your lordſhip, to diſcourſe with you, concerning the beſt means of ſuppreſſing tories in that country: he will ſhew your lordſhip my letter of orders to him, on that behalf.

I directed my lord chief juſtice to give you an anſwer, to ſome of your lordſhip's letters, which I hope he hath done. I conceive, if ſome of the city's tenants were minded of their duty, of providing arms,

arms, for the ſecurity of the country, according to the covenants of their leaſes, eſpecially ſuch as live near the parts, where theſe tories haunt, it may do well. I only apprehend, that ſome of theſe very tenants themſelves, may have a correſpondency with the tories, which, if any be ſuch, thoſe arms will be of no benefit to the public: I am ſure men are foully belied, if ſome that have leaſes from the city, do not connive at theſe rogueries. But your lordſhip who is on the place, can beſt judge, whom to employ.

I am, your lordſhip's
moſt affectionate humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Conway.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, June 5, 1675.

I Preſume Mr. Godolphin has attended your lordſhip, tho' I have ſent him away in ſome haſte, hoping he might adjuſt his buſineſs, ſo as to be at London whilſt the adjournment was, which gave me no leiſure to write to your lordſhip. Yet my letter to my lord treaſurer, was ſo full, as I conceived it would have been ſuperfluous to have troubled you with any thing upon that ſubject, concluding my lord treaſurer would not omit communicating that letter to you.

My wife's, from you, tells me, that your lordſhip has ſome apprehenſions, whether, if I go, I ſhall ſo eaſily return again. I have now ſpent almoſt three

years here, and I hope, with honour and juſtice; but I find at the preſent, that ſo many particulars will come upon the ſtage, to be ſettled, as unleſs I be a little upon the place, to receive directions, it will be impoſſible for me, for the future, to ſupport credit and integrity, with that intireneſs, as I have ever deſigned. Buſineſs of my own, I have not the leaſt in England, and 'tis purely upon the public account, in order to the ſettling matters for his Majeſty's ſervice, that I go. If his Majeſty ſhould, while I am in England, think of another, to govern here, the like might happen tho' I ſtayed; but I am very confident, if your lordſhip ſeriouſly conſiders the heads that are now to be tranſacted, you cannot but judge it fit, that I were at the debate of them: and if good rules be fixed touching theſe mean points, I doubt not, but one year more will go a great way, towards the final ſettlement of the whole kingdom; a work, which I confeſs, I have ſome degree of ambition to be the perſon who ſhould perform.

As for lords juſtices, in my abſence, I have ſent over nothing under my hand, conceiving it were reaſonable firſt to hear, whether the king intended I ſhould come over; but directed Mr. Godolphin, to acquaint his Majeſty, that there were none upon the place, but my lord chancellor, and ſir Arthur Forbeſe, nor could I readily think of any more fit to nominate, unleſs the king ſhould command your lordſhip over, to be one in that commiſſion.

As to my lord chancellor's being one, 'tis doubtleſs neceſſary, except I ſhould declare an abſolute breach with him; for if you look into the liſts of lords juſtices for an hundred years, you will ever find the chancellor to be one; unleſs it were in the late

lord

lord of Strafford's time, in 1639. My lord Dillon, and ſir Chriſtopher Wandesford, were juſtices, but the reaſon of omitting the chancellor then, was the diſpute between him and my lord of Strafford, for at that time, my lord of Strafford, and he, were at difference about ſettling of that eſtate; and my lord chancellor was a priſoner, or went into England to anſwer before the council there, where my lord of Strafford himſelf were alſo preſent, ſo as then, he could not be Juſtice. Afterward, in 1640, ſir William Parſons, and ſir John Borlace, were made lords juſtices, and the chancellor was then omitted, the ground whereof was, becauſe the lord chancellor Bolton was then under an impeachment by the houſe of commons: beſides, I conceive there will be no buſineſs, but matters of courſe, paſs while I am away. For the making of one ſingle deputy, I am for many reaſons, too large to be inſerted in this letter, utterly againſt it. Mr. Godolphin will further diſcourſe with your lordſhip, concerning this matter. The papers which were tranſmitted to you, being ſome inſtructions to ſir Arthur Forbeſe, may ſufficiently convince you of my intentions, relating to the royal regiment; but ſuppoſing I ſhall quickly go over, I would be glad to make it my own work; I have long reſolved, and am ſtill of opinion, that 'tis of importance to his Majeſty's ſervice, to have them ſeparated, and ſome other companies regimented, to keep conſtantly in town. This you may communicate to our friends, you uſually converſe with; but I apprehend it beſt, to be put in execution, when I am upon the place.

I am, your lordſhip's moſt
faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Godolphin.

Dublin Caſtle, June 5, 1675.

Mr. D. Godolphin.

I Have your's of the 29th of May, which gives me an account of your arrival at London, and am very glad you came ſo timely there. Your ſecond letter tells me, that you have credible information, that ſhould I go over into England, my lord of Sunderland has ſo ſet his buſineſs, that I ſhall not be permitted to return, but he will ſucceed me; I wiſh you had told me from what hand you had this advice, that thereby, I might be enabled to gueſs at the probability thereof: but happen what will, I ſhall not alter my reſolutions. I have been now here almoſt three years, and I am confident have done nothing, nor ſcarce ſuffered any thing to be done, unbeſeeming myſelf hitherto; but I find ſo great a perplexity growing, by reaſon of faction among his Majeſty's miniſters, and I do alſo diſcern, there will be alſo ſo vaſt a work upon my hands at Chriſtmas next (being the time of the expiration of my lord Ranelagh's contract, and the farm) as unleſs I can clearly underſtand his Majeſty's pleaſure, upon ſome of theſe points, and thoſe particulars be adjuſted whilſt I am upon the place, it will be impoſſible for me to be here for the future, either with reputation to myſelf, or advantage to his Majeſty's ſervice. If my remove at this time ſhould be reſolved, I am ſure, ſhould there not be a perſon here at the concluſion of the farm, who has had an experience in the government, and a particular knowledge of all the covenants relating to theſe two bargains, and underſtands them thoroughly; and beſides this, one who will be firm

to

to his Majeſty's intereſt and profit, the king muſt ſuffer vaſtly at the winding up of theſe bottoms. I have never ambitiouſly ſought any employment, and ſince I had this, I confeſs, the labour and toil thereof, make me leſs deſirous of it, than ever I was before; but come what will, I ſhall not much concern myſelf. As for my writing to the duke of York, I wiſh I had done it, but really it never came into my thoughts, and now 'tis too late, for my lord Conway being one of the juſtices, you know I mentioned it to you before you went, only I doubted he would not think it worth his trouble to come out of England hither for ſo ſhort a time: herewith is encloſed a letter to you, which you may ſhew to my lord Conway.

If you ſhould find there be any underhand endeavours to have a deputy in my abſence, I would have you abſolutely oppoſe it, for I do very well underſtand what inconveniencies will ariſe from thence; and I have ſome reaſon to doubt ſuch a thing may be hammering.

I am,

Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Godolphin.

Dublin Caſtle, June 5, 1675.

Mr. Godolphin.

YOUR letters, which gave an account of your arrival at London, and delivery of mine there, I have received, and by them do find, that I am like to be ſent for into England; you know when I diſpatched you, I would not under my own hand ſend over the names of perſons either to the king, or any of his miniſters, whom I propoſed here to govern in my abſence; but I told you there was no body upon the place fit to be intruſted, as lords juſtices, ſave only my lord chancellor, and ſir Arthur Forbeſe, nor any other that I knew of the privy council here, unleſs my lord Conway were ſent for over; but the only objection to my lord Conway's coming over, was, that I ſhould upon ſome occaſions want him there in England, in regard of the intimate acquaintance he has with my lord treaſurer; my lord Ranelagh, I conceived, could not poſſibly be away, when reſolutions were to be taken concerning the revenue, and for that reaſon I named him not at all; therefore, if the king does continue his pleaſure of ſending for me over, I conceive either my lord chancellor and ſir Arthur Forbeſe, or my lord chancellor and lord Conway, or all three of them, may be very proper to be Juſtices; this, as you find moſt agreeable to his Majeſty's liking.

You may alſo do well to diſcourſe with my lord Conway, and ſee what his inclinations are, for tho' he may be of much uſe to me in England, yet if he have any deſire to be one of the lords Juſtices, I ſhould be very glad to have him here, being a perſon that

that I dare truſt, and one very proper to be joined with my lord chancellor.

I am,

your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To Sir Arthur Capel.

Dublin Caſtle, June 5, 1675.

Dear Brother,

I Have your's of the 29th inſtant, which tells me, that you had ſeen Mr. Godolphin, but wiſh, that I had conſulted friends in England, before that I took the ſudden reſolution, as to that matter I ſent him about; the reſolution was not ſudden, for I had thoughts of it, I am ſure, above a month or ſix weeks before; and 'tis impoſſible for any one to give me advice in England, ſince they cannot know the ſtate and condition of things here, ſo well as I myſelf: for my own part, unleſs I can ſupport my place with honour and credit, I had rather lay it down. And I ſee ſuch multitudes of perplexities growing on, and alſo there are ſo many particulars of moment to be conſulted, concerning the final ſettlement of this country, that unleſs I be upon the place, when concluſions on ſome of theſe heads are made, I cannot poſſibly be at eaſe in the future management of affairs here. I ſuppoſe it will not be long ere I ſhall be preparing for my journey, and till I ſee you, there will be no need of anſwering the

other

other particulars in your letter, only I desire you to tell Mr. Harbord, I have his of the same date with your's.

I am,

Your most affectionate brother,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Ranelagh.

My Lord, Dublin Castle, June 5, 1675.

I Have received yours of the 29th instant, together with the enclosed petition: it will ask some little time to speak with your lordship's partners, and the farmers of Cork-house, and advise a little with the king's council; but I hope on Friday next to give you an answer.

I am, your lordship's
most faithful humble servant,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Secretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Castle, June 8, 1675.

I Have no business of importance to acquaint you with, only that some tories have of late been very troublesome in the counties of Wexford, Catherlough, and the parts adjacent; I ordered three companies of foot, to send out files of men, as they saw occasion,

occaſion, for ſuppreſſing of them, and diſpatched ſir Theophilus Jones's troop down on the ſame deſign; as alſo ſome orders went to one or two of the anti-enteſt militia captains, directing them to raiſe a competent number of their men, and purſue them; I likewiſe ſent letters to the ſeveral ſheriffs of thoſe counties, minding them it was their duty to keep his Majeſty's peace, and to raiſe the country upon thoſe miſchievous people.

Captain Winckford, one of the commiſſioners of the treaſury, and a militia captain of the county of Wexford, had the good fortune to light on one party of them, who fired firſt upon him, and ſhot himſelf, and ſeveral of his men through their cloaths, but no hurt done; he firing again at them, killed one, upon which the reſt fled, and in the purſuit he took another, with ſix of their horſes; the man killed, proves to be a murtherer, and likewiſe he who is taken, is a man condemned for former murthers. Theſe lawleſs people have been ſo bold, as to ſend to ſeveral gentlemen, requiring them, at a certain time, to furniſh them with ſums of money, or otherwiſe they would fire their houſes; they have done the like alſo to divers little towns in the country, and forced them to their demands; thoſe who have refuſed, they have ſet fire to their houſes; ſome people alſo they have murthered; the reports in Dublin do make them to be threeſcore, ſome ſay a hundred in a body: but yeſterday, by an account from ſir Theophilus Jones, who is now on the place, I hear, that the noiſe is not ſo great in the country as is reported here; that indeed there are three or four parties of them, of eight or ten men in a party, and no more. I queſtion not, in a ſhort time, by the courſe I have already taken, they will be ſuppreſt; but in caſe they

ſhould

ſhould increaſe in their numbers, I muſt be forced to commiſſionate ſome active perſon, as a marſhal, and ſend among them to execute martial law on theſe offenders, this being the laſt remedy, and a little beyond the ordinary proceedings at law, tho' uſually done in this kingdom, on like occaſions, I am loath to put it in practice till forced by neceſſity. There are others out in the northern parts of this kingdom, divers of them have been lately killed, and ſeveral alſo taken by the people, who generally riſe upon them; the reaſons why we hear ſo much of theſe outrages, at this time, I conceive to be, firſt, becauſe ſeveral of the gaols have been lately broke, and the rogues there, got out.

Secondly, divers men have aſſembled themſelves, from all parts of this kingdom, in the counties of Cork and Kerry, deſigning to ſhip themſelves, as ſoldiers, for France, ſome whereof did go on board two French ſhips coming on that coaſt; but others miſſing of their paſſage, have ran in and joined with thoſe, who they heard were robbing in the country.

Thirdly, a number of theſe people, with which this country always abound, and who never work, but live only by coſhering up and down, pinched with ſcarcity of corn, do now follow this wicked courſe of life.

I had not troubled you with ſo long an account, upon this ſubject, which indeed is not worth ſending you, but only fearing ſome buſy people might write over into England, and reports come to his Majeſty's ear,

ear, which if they ſhould, this letter will clear the truth.

I am,

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, June 9, 1675.

THIS day, at near twelve o'clock, I received two packets out of England, one of the firſt, and another of the fifth of June. The tide not ſerving for our boats till three in the afternoon, I was unwilling to let it go off without a line or two to your lordſhip. When I ſent over Mr. Godolphin, I told him, and directed him to keep a memorandum thereof in writing, that there were no perſons upon the place proper to be lords juſtices but my lord Chancellor and Sir Arthur Forbeſe; and unleſs the King would think fit to ſend back my lord Conway, and ſo conſtitute my lord Chancellor and lord Conway, I could not tell whom to think of to nominate. This I did, intending, that after I ſhould have an anſwer concerning my own going, I might then formally preſent ſuch names to his Majeſty's conſideration, as might be proper to ſupply the place in my abſence: but my letters this day inform me, that his Majeſty had not taken any reſolution concerning my coming, interrupted, I ſuppoſe, by the heats of the parliament; and yet the perſons to be employed here in my abſence, are diſcourſed of on that ſide

the

the water. I do therefore take the liberty to acquaint your lordſhip with my ſenſe on this ſubject, which is, that either my lord Chancellor and my lord Conway, or my lord Chancellor and Sir Arthur Forbeſe, or all three together, may do very well. I have not the higheſt opinion in the world of my lord Chancellor's integrity (this being more than ever I have put under my hand before, I deſire your lordſhip to keep private to yourſelf) but yet ſhould he, by my advice, be left out of this commiſſion, it would, I know, occaſion an abſolute breach between him and me, which would not be ſo convenient for his Majeſty's ſervice: therefore I conclude, that if he be yoked with a good man, it may do well; eſpecially ſince care may be taken that nothing but things of courſe ſhall paſs during that little time I ſhall be abſent. As for a deputy, I am upon many conſiderations utterly againſt it; and I hope his Majeſty, who has by his commiſſion under the great ſeal, impowered me to make a deputy upon occaſion, will not impoſe it. I do not often trouble your lordſhip with trivial things; and indeed I preſume I need not, well knowing that your lordſhip will not have regard to little reports: yet, however, one of my letters giving me intimation, as if ſome perſon had told your lordſhip that I had ſent to my lord of Arlington a copy of the letter which I wrote to your lordſhip, I take this occaſion to acquaint your lordſhip, that if any thing of this nature has been told you, it is an abſolute lie; for I never wrote one ſyllable to my lord of Arlington, nor ſent a copy of this letter to any man living: neither ſince my lord of Arlington was out of the Secretary's place, have I communicated to him the moſt minute particular relating to any publick concern of this country. And

therefore

therefore I humbly beſeech your lordſhip to recollect with yourſelf who ſhould inſinuate any ſuch matter, and then I doubt not but you will eſteem of them, whoever they are, as deſigning miſchief to us both.

I am, your lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the lord Treaſurer.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, June 9, 1675.

AFTER I had ended my other letter herewith encloſed, I received the favour of yours of the firſt of June. I do ſomewhat wonder how the report of coming over could arrive before Mr. Godolphin; for I aſſure your lordſhip, I never conſulted with any in England upon this ſubject, nor communicated my thoughts to any on that ſide the water, till theſe letters were diſpatched: I rather believe that ſome caſual report of my remove might happen to be ſpread by accident three or four days before Mr. Godolphin reached London, than that any one could know that I offered to his Majeſty's conſideration the ſending for me to attend him. I know very well how difficult it is in this age, among ſo much faction as now reigns, to ſupport a man's ſelf from being miſchieved by one or other: but I have ever purſued his Majeſty's concerns in a direct courſe, wherein I queſtion not but I ſhall have all honeſt and upright men to ſtand by me. And there being one of ſo much integrity, as him to whom I make this

this addreſs, in a great place and favour, I can never doubt of going through with the propoſals I have to make for the publick good and final ſettlement of the kingdom; which was all the deſign I had in my heart in making this journey. Your lordſhip will be pleaſed to accept this letter as written in much haſte, and believe me to be with all reality,

Your lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Conway.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, June 9, 1675.

I Have juſt now received yours of the firſt of June, and the going off of the packet, gives me not an hour's time to write to you, and to make ſeveral other diſpatches which yet I am loth to hinder, in regard the wind favours; ſo as 'tis with much haſte I return your lordſhip this letter.

In the firſt place, I can aſſure your lordſhip, that the fear of loſing any employment (however my deſires of being ſerviceable to his Majeſty in my generation are as zealous as any man's whatſoever) hath never in any meaſure entered into my thought; at leaſt not ſo as by the apprehenſion of that, to make me do any thing inconſiſtent with my duty. I do not well underſtand how that the repreſenting to his Majeſty the important points which muſt be ſettled in order to the government of this kingdom, and humbly offering to his conſideration, whether it may

may not be convenient, that at the debate of them, I were perſonally preſent; can be conſtrued as a deſire of mine to come over, further than that I conceived it of concernment to the publick, that in theſe weighty affairs his Majeſty may have true information before a reſult be taken in the whole. For my own part, the journey will be both troubleſome to me, and very chargeable; and, I confeſs, to my own particular concerns, I am very well where I am: wherefore, a man of ſo low a ſoul, as to regard only his own private intereſt, would, I am ſure, were he in my ſtation, rather employ all the friends he had to obſtruct this journey, than any way either to propoſe or promote it. 'Tis the misfortune of this prying age, that no one in great place can offer any thing, but all people do judge there is ſomething of deſign or remote end, other than what is viſible to the world. However, I can aſſure your lordſhip, that I never conſulted with any in England upon this ſubject, but have calmly reaſoned the point with myſelf more than a month together, and am convinced, that the ſeveral particulars inſtanced in my letter to the King, are of ſo much moment, as if the intention on that ſide the water be to bring this kingdom to a thorough ſettlement, and to render it of that uſe and advantage, which it may be to his Majeſty's other dominions, thoſe two ends may be beſt attained by my perſonal preſence there for a little time. I am his Majeſty's ſervant, and ſhall in all things punctually obey his commands: and having offered my opinion to the King, his pleaſure ſhall guide me in all that I do, either in coming or ſtaying, I wrote my thoughts freely to your lordſhip, tho' in much haſte, and remain,

Your Lordſhip's

moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Godolphin.

Dublin Caſtle, June 9, 1675.

Mr. Godolphin,

YOURS of the firſt and 5th of June, are both come, and having very little time, which I am loth to loſe, to diſpatch you an anſwer by this poſt, I can only ſay this, that I had for ſeveral weeks conſidered of the propoſing of my going over in this conjuncture; and was convinced, that it would be both of importance to his Majeſty's ſervice, and for my own eaſe in the future management of affairs here. As for factions at court, 'tis not my buſineſs to engage with any, but purely to purſue the King's commands, and hold my correſpondence with thoſe himſelf ſhall direct. For the making a deputy here, I am utterly againſt it; therefore I would have you intereſt all my friends whatever to obſtruct it, as my late letter of the 5th told you; beſides, my commiſſion does impower me to conſtitute a deputy in my abſence. Tho', I preſume, no man in his wits would attempt to nominate any one, or lords Juſtices, without the King's approbation; yet I hope, and doubt not, but his Majeſty has ſo much favour for me, as he will not, while my commiſſion laſts, impoſe any on me without my recommendation. Uſe Sir Henry Capel's or Mr. Harbord's cypher to decypher this. I do conceive it of much importance to his Majeſty's affairs, a little to divide my lord Treaſurer and my lord Ranelagh, and that for my lord Treaſurer's ſervice, the latter of theſe being one who

who will in the end ruin him; but whatever is done of this kind, muſt be done with great dexterity. Pray keep this to yourſelf.

Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Harbord.

Mr. Harbord, Dublin Caſtle, June 9, 1675.

I Have juſt received yours of the firſt of June, but have ſcarce time to ſay any thing upon them. As to my journey I am ſure 'tis of importance to the King's ſervice, if the good of this kingdom be intended. It was no ſudden reſolution of mine, but long conſidered of; but whether I go or not, or whether I go or remain, I will approve myſelf a plain honeſt man. Pray tell my brother I have his of the 5th inſtant, together with another with a parchment writing encloſed, but have only time to acknowledge them. I am,

Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Godolphin.

Dublin Caſtle, June 12, 1675.

Mr. Godolphin,

I Wrote by the laſt, in anſwer to yours of the firſt and fifth of this month, in a great deal of haſte, the packet-boat being juſt going out as I received your letters. As to my journey, which I perceive by them is not yet reſolved upon, I am of the ſame opinion I ever was, that it will be for his Majeſty's ſervice, tho' not at all for my profit. If his Majeſty deſires to have a true information of the affairs of this kingdom, he will then have me come; but if he be contented to take the repreſentation of others, who perhaps are never without ſome by-end of their own, and form his buſineſs according to the meaſures by them given, ſhould misfortunes befal him, let the blame light where it ought. I have done my duty in offering my ſervice; and which way ſoever it goes, I will ſleep quiet.

Pray uſe your utmoſt endeavours to find out (if poſſible) who it was that ſhould tell my lord Treaſurer that I had ſent a copy of my letter to my lord of Arlington; 'tis ſo damnable a lie, that I wiſh the perſon who invented it were detected.

The difficulties which your laſt letter tells me my lord Ranelagh raiſes againſt my coming over, *viz.* concerning the calling of a parliament here during the next interval of the ſeſſions in England, are ſo ridiculous, that were any man on the place, who underſtands our conſtitutions, he would eaſily anſwer them: for his lordſhip well knows, that it will take ſix months at leaſt to make preparations for a parliament in this kingdom. For firſt, there muſt be

his

his Majeſty's pleaſure ſignified by a letter for the calling of it; then the lieutenant and council here are to prepare and draw up the bills to be offered at this ſeſſions; then the bills muſt be ſent into England, and approved by the King and council there (the debates which will ariſe in the privy council in Ireland and privy council in England, will probably take up no ſhort time upon each bill) and after this, thoſe bills muſt be remitted back, as likewiſe thoſe from thence. Other perſons do tell me of a report, ſome few days before you arrived at London, out of Iriſh letters, that the King had ſent to recal me, and had appointed Sir Arthur Forbeſe and my lord Conway Juſtices. I would be extreamly glad to know out of what letters this came, for I never kept any thing more ſecret than that affair. Pray uſe your utmoſt endeavours to diſcover the authors of it. Tho' no other preparations in order to my coming ſhould be made, yet I wiſh you would tell Mr. Hugh May, that he ſhould haſten the caſing of the front of the houſe at Caſhiobury, and the covering of it, and that it be done with all diſpatch imaginable; for unleſs that part of the houſe be roofed and tiled before I come, I do not know how I ſhall be able to lie one night there.

I am,

Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Harbord.

Mr. Harbord, Dublin Caſtle, June 12, 1675.

AT the writing of my laſt letter, I had ſo little time, as I could then ſay no more to you than what I did. It is very pleaſant to ſee what wild conjectures men have at the grounds of my propoſing a journey into England, when the matter itſelf is ſo plain, and to any right reaſoner ſo obvious. My lord Ranelagh's contract, and alſo the farm is near determining, and at Chriſtmas next all reckonings muſt be made up with them. I have not ſpent my time ſo idly here, as not to underſtand their ſeveral covenants: but I do find a vaſt work will then be upon my hands to adjuſt all accounts, and many queſtions will ariſe upon ſeveral clauſes in their contract. I would therefore be glad, before he comes, a little to acquaint his Majeſty with the ſtate of affairs as they will then ſtand, and receive his directions concerning divers particulars, and ſums which will then be claimed: but if his Majeſty had rather conclude himſelf in relation to thoſe two great bargains, only by hearing my lord Ranelagh and the farmers, who are the parties concerned againſt him, without permitting any one who underſtands the intrigue of the whole, to ſpeak in his own behalf, I am very well ſatisfied. Beſides this, upon the concluſions of thoſe great farms, there will be conſiderable alterations in the frame of all things here, and an opportunity will then be of reducing the kingdom to a final ſettlement. This country has been perpetually rent and torn ſince his Majeſty's reſtoration. I can compare it to nothing better than the flinging the reward upon the death of a deer among a pack

a pack of hounds, where every one pulls and tears what he can for himſelf: for indeed, it has been no other than a perpetual ſcramble. If then it be thought the wiſer way of government, to let it continue ſo, and by the inſecurity and hazard all men are in, in relation to their eſtates, expoſed on every opportunity to new inſurrections and rebellions, and by this incertain condition to hinder all improvements both of private fortunes, and conſequently of his Majeſty's revenue too; then if miſchief do come, or ſo good an account cannot by the chief governor be given of the flouriſhing ſtate of that province under his charge, as himſelf wiſhes, let it reſt on thoſe men's ſhoulders who are unwilling his Majeſty ſhould come to a true knowledge of his affairs. And for my own part, having made recital of the ſeveral heads, and offered (as by the duty of my place I am bound) my aſſiſtance in ſettling of them, I have diſcharged my conſcience, and ſhall diſquiet myſelf no further, whatever the ſucceſs be. Did I regard my own particular gains, this journey would never have come into my thoughts, being very well in the ſtation where I am; and I do know by my going over ſome hazard will be run of loſing my employment: but when ſo great a good as the final ſettlement of a whole kingdom may be compaſſed, (and the article of time for effecting this is now come, if a right means be uſed thereunto) I do not value the hazarding of ten ſuch places, in ballance to the compleating of ſo advantageous a work. However, as I have not deſired Mr. Godolphin to preſs my coming, ſo neither could I wiſh you to do it, but let it e'en take its own courſe. Having nothing further to write, I remain

Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Harbord.

Mr. Harbord, Dublin Caſtle, June 12, 1675.

AT the writing of my laſt letter, I had ſo little time, as I could then ſay no more to you than what I did. It is very pleaſant to ſee what wild conjectures men have at the grounds of my propoſing a journey into England, when the matter itſelf is ſo plain, and to any right reaſoner ſo obvious. My lord Ranelagh's contract, and alſo the farm is near determining, and at Chriſtmas next all reckonings muſt be made up with them. I have not ſpent my time ſo idly here, as not to underſtand their ſeveral covenants: but I do find a vaſt work will then be upon my hands to adjuſt all accounts, and many queſtions will ariſe upon ſeveral clauſes in their contract. I would therefore be glad, before he comes, a little to acquaint his Majeſty with the ſtate of affairs as they will then ſtand, and receive his directions concerning divers particulars, and ſums which will then be claimed: but if his Majeſty had rather conclude himſelf in relation to thoſe two great bargains, only by hearing my lord Ranelagh and the farmers, who are the parties concerned againſt him, without permitting any one who underſtands the intrigue of the whole, to ſpeak in his own behalf, I am very well ſatisfied. Beſides this, upon the concluſions of thoſe great farms, there will be conſiderable alterations in the frame of all things here, and an opportunity will then be of reducing the kingdom to a final ſettlement. This country has been perpetually rent and torn ſince his Majeſty's reſtoration. I can compare it to nothing better than the flinging the reward upon the death of a deer among

a pack

a pack of hounds, where every one pulls and tears what he can for himſelf: for indeed, it has been no other than a perpetual ſcramble. If then it be thought the wiſer way of government, to let it continue ſo, and by the inſecurity and hazard all men are in, in relation to their eſtates, expoſed on every opportunity to new inſurrections and rebellions, and by this incertain condition to hinder all improvements both of private fortunes, and conſequently of his Majeſty's revenue too; then if miſchief do come, or ſo good an account cannot by the chief governor be given of the flouriſhing ſtate of that province under his charge, as himſelf wiſhes, let it reſt on thoſe men's ſhoulders who are unwilling his Majeſty ſhould come to a true knowledge of his affairs. And for my own part, having made recital of the ſeveral heads, and offered (as by the duty of my place I am bound) my aſſiſtance in ſettling of them, I have diſcharged my conſcience, and ſhall diſquiet myſelf no further, whatever the ſucceſs be. Did I regard my own particular gains, this journey would never have come into my thoughts, being very well in the ſtation where I am; and I do know by my going over ſome hazard will be run of loſing my employment: but when ſo great a good as the final ſettlement of a whole kingdom may be compaſſed, (and the article of time for effecting this is now come, if a right means be uſed thereunto) I do not value the hazarding of ten ſuch places, in ballance to the compleating of ſo advantageous a work. However, as I have not deſired Mr. Godolphin to preſs my coming, ſo neither could I wiſh you to do it, but let it e'en take its own courſe. Having nothing further to write, I remain

Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To Sir Henry Capel.

Dublin Caſtle, June 12, 1675.

Dear Brother,

I HAD not leiſure to write to you by the laſt, and therefore I directed Mr. Harbord to acknowledge the receipt of your letters. The various conjectures that men have of my coming over, and their gueſſes at the reaſons why I ſhould propoſe it, are as ridiculous as any thing I have ever met with. The truth is, this age is ſo ſubtle, that 'tis hard for any man living in it to believe there is one plain-dealing man left in the world. I never conſulted any one in England whatever concerning my going; and there is but one ſingle perſon on this ſide the water who knew it, till I had diſpatched Mr. Godolphin (wherefore I would be glad that yourſelf and Mr. Harbord would enquire out who were the authors of that report of my being ſent for, four days before Mr. Godolphin reached London) I debated the matter calmly with myſelf, at leaſt one month before I took the reſolution; and finding clearly, that there will be now an opportunity of ſettling this poor country in quiet and eaſe, if the King ſo think fit, I thought it worthy the offering my ſenſe upon that ſubject, and the propoſing my coming over, in order to a great and good end. I have ſpent now almoſt three years here, to inform myſelf of the true ſtate of this kingdom, and the ſeveral intereſts therein; and I hope I have not been an unprofitable obſerver of all matters relating to the conſtitutions of this government. When I entered upon my charge, I came from a retired life, and never had any thing of this nature committed to my truſt; and it was a

hazard

hazard whether I would be able to perform it, ſo as might be for his Majeſty's ſervice. If there were nothing more than this in the caſe, that his Majeſty, having put a man unexperienced in government, into the greateſt command he has to give, where he has reſided near three years, and his Majeſty ſhould think fit to diſcourſe with him, and try if in this time he underſtands thoſe affairs which have been under his charge, and would hear him upon ſome debates at the committee for Iriſh buſineſs, to ſatisfy himſelf whether he be a man that has uſed diligence in his employment, and endeavoured to make himſelf maſter in the knowledge of that country, and has parts and capacity thereunto: if, upon theſe trials, the King ſhould find this perſon ignorant, and not able to ſpeak ſenſe in the concerns of that kingdom, it were doubtleſs reaſonable he be immediately removed, and another ſent that would ſerve better. But if his Majeſty ſhould find, that his chief governor has been induſtrious to inform himſelf of the ſtate of all things under his command, and has been virtuous and true to him in the diſcharge of his duty, this may confirm his Majeſty in his choice, and he may with honour be ſent back again to the government, as being capable to do his Majeſty more ſervice in that poſt, than any other. If there were, I ſay, no more than this in the caſe, it were ground ſufficient for his Majeſty to deſire to ſpeak with him. But if over and above all this, there is now an article of time approaching, wherein great good may be done to this country, and I have prepared myſelf to make propoſals thereunto, it ſeems a moſt wonderful thing to me, what ſhould be the reaſon that his Majeſty ſhould ſcruple the ſending for me over; and as ſtrange that men ſhould conjecture and have wild

notions,

notions, as if I were put upon this journey by ſome or other who intend to miſchief me, and that I had over-reached myſelf therein: the plain truth being no more than this, that I find conſiderable matters may be done, and the ſeaſon of putting them into execution draws near; therefore I have offered my ſervice to his Majeſty, to be preſent at the debates of them. And if the King like of my coming, I am ready, and if not, having diſcharged my duty, I have no more to ſay. As to Mr. Godolphin's diſcourſing with you or Mr. Harbord upon this ſubject, he was not at all forbidden: and, I confeſs, I am much at eaſe now that my letters are delivered; for if I be commanded to come, I know it may conduce to the good of the kingdom; and if I do not go over, and any miſchief or irregularities happen to be done, let them bear the blame who take upon them to eſtabliſh rules for the government of this kingdom. By the next I ſhall return you the writings you ſent over, as alſo a particular of my brother Ned's eſtate, the latter of which I thought I had ſent long ago.

I am,

Your moſt affectionate brother,

ESSEX.

To the Earl of Orrery.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, June 12, 1675.

I Have received your lordſhip's of the 4th of June, and am much pleaſed to hear that you are ſafely arrived at the end of your journey. You find mat-

ters

ters in great diſorder at London; and I confeſs, I do with ſome trouble apprehend the ill effects that theſe diſputes between the two houſes may produce, in regard that a diſcompoſure in parliament is like a diſeaſe which affects the heart. The parliament being the like, of our government, I pray God ſend a happy end thereof. As your lordſhip hath leiſure to let me know what paſſeth, by giving me account of things, you will very much oblige

Your Lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Aungier.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, June 12, 1675.

I Give your lordſhip thanks for the favour of yours of the 5th, which clearly ſtates the whole matter now in difference between the two houſes. Methinks the affair looks very black and untoward, and I have many apprehenſions what will be the end of it. I know not whether I told you in the laſt I wrote, that I had ſtopt the paſſing of the grant to the biſhop of Oſſory, mentioned in ſome of your letters; and the biſhop tells me, that he will ſend to my lady Cleaveland, to endeavour her conſent for it, which till he hath, I am ſure it ſhall not ſtir. Having nothing further to add, I remain,

Your lordſhip's moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Earl of St. Albans.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, June 15, 1675.

THIS gentleman, captain Brock, being a perſon whom your lordſhip recommended to me, I have done him all the kindneſs which conveniently lay within my power; and he now returning into England, I would not refuſe him the teſtimony that he has carried himſelf as became a worthy honeſt man: did he need any thing to be ſaid to your lordſhip in his behalf, I ſhould add more; but knowing the favourable opinion which your lordſhip has upon experience entertained of him, I conceive this may ſuffice to mind your lordſhip to allow him your aſſiſtance and friendſhip, as any occaſion to expreſs it ſhall arrive. Some time ſince I received the favour of a letter from your lordſhip, concerning a debt due to one of your ſervants from Sir Charles de Vic, an officer in the army here. Sir Charles tells me it was the King's debt, and that his father was only bound for the money: yet, however, I ſhall give him ſome ſhort time to anſwer it, and if he fail, ſhall afterwards leave the matter to the law, notwithſtanding his military capacity.

I ſhall detain your lordſhip no longer, but deſire you to believe of me, as I am, with perfect truth,

Your Lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To

To Mr. ſecretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, June 15, 1675.

I Perceive by my letters out of England, that the unhappy differences between the two houſes do find work enough for all his Majeſty's miniſters there; wherefore I cannot wonder that I do not yet hear what reſolution his Majeſty has taken concerning my coming over. As I ſaid at firſt, ſo I do ſtill profeſs, that I have no buſineſs at all of my own to engage me in this journey, but 'tis purely in order to his Majeſty's ſervice, that he may be informed of the true ſtate of things here; and that ſuch propoſals may be made for the final ſettlement of this kingdom, as may eſtabliſh quiet and eaſe therein. If any one on that ſide the water are unwilling his Majeſty ſhould know the truth of things, and therefore do oppoſe the means of ſuch information, ſhould any thing fall out unluckily here, the blame ought to reſt at their doors, and not be laid to my charge, ſince I have offered my endeavours to ſerve his Majeſty to the utmoſt of my power. Yeſterday my lord mayor, accompanied with eighteen aldermen and the two ſheriffs of the city, attended me in council, acquainting us, that at an aſſembly of the city, the mayor and aldermen had propoſed to the commons, according to form, the croſſing out of their books thoſe entries that were made relating to the excluſion of the eight aldermen, which they were commanded to do by an order of council; as likewiſe one other propoſal was made for the electing of an agent, and impowering him, under the city ſeal, to appear in his Majeſty's courts in ſeveral ſuits which were there depending between particular perſons and this city, both

which

which the commons refuſed to aſſent unto; but upon their refuſal, the mayor, aldermen and ſheriffs did order thoſe acts of aſſembly to be cancelled, purſuant to our commands, which was accordingly done, whereupon I gave my lord mayor thanks, and told him, that himſelf, the aldermen and ſheriffs had done like good and dutiful ſubjects in ſhewing their obedience to his Majeſty's authority. I do not enough underſtand the cuſtoms and conſtitutions of the city, to judge how regular this is, which the mayor, aldermen and ſheriffs have performed; but here is a very antient man, one Smith, an alderman, of above thirty or forty years ſtanding, who ſaith, there have ſeveral precedents been in his time, when the commons have been refractory to the publick authority; that upon theſe occaſions the mayor, alderman and ſheriffs have done their duty: but becauſe I believe ſome or other may be apt to trouble his Majeſty with particulars relating to this matter, I do therefore think it expedient you have a more exact account of their late proceedings.

My lord mayor, on Wedneſday or Thurſday laſt, finding there were many of the aldermen in the town, invited ten or twelve of them, men uningaged in the late troubles of the city, being none of them either of the eight excluded, or of the four who irregularly turned them out; and after dinner he acquainted them, that the city lay under great reproach of diſobedience to his Majeſty's authority, in regard they had not complied with an order of the lieutenant and council, empowered by his Majeſty's ſpecial command, to determine ſome differences which formerly had been among them; and further, that the revenue was almoſt brought to ruin, ſeveral perſons having ſuits at law againſt them, and none authorized as an agent

agent to anſwer them, judgment had been given upon *nihil dicit* in ſeveral cauſes, and executions iſſued to diſpoſſeſs them of their lands and other revenues, by which means the corporation in time would be totally deſtroyed, Whereupon alderman Smith, the moſt antient among them, told the reſt, it was his opinion that they ſhould once more call an aſſembly, and try if the commons would do what was fit; and ſhould they refuſe, he conceived, that the aldermen, if the ſheriffs would join therein, might in ſuch a caſe perform their duty, and not ſuffer the city to be undone through the ſtubbornneſs and faction of ſome few little people; and offered ſeveral precedents when the like had been formerly practiſed. So on Friday following an aſſembly was accordingly called, and the matter paſſed there as before related. There were eighteen aldermen preſent, who all concurred in their obedience to Our order, the ſheriffs likewiſe joining with them; then they required Sir John Tottie and Crofts, as clerks of the Tholſel, to croſs the books, and obliterate thoſe entries therein made, which by Our order are directed to be cancelled. Sir John Tottie refuſing, they degraded him from being an alderman, and likewiſe voted him out of his place as clerk of the Tholſel; and for the moiety of the profits belonging to him, they directed an account to be kept thereof, and the money to be employed to the publick uſe of the city.

Now, becauſe Alderman Smith is the perſon that propoſed this courſe, it may not be amiſs to give you a juſt character of the man: he is one aged near fourſcore years, and has always been reputed a man of great integrity and loyalty; an eminent inſtance of the latter, he gave, as I am told, when my lord Ormond delivered up the ſword to the parliament commiſſioners

commiſſioners here: he happening then to be mayor, came to the council table, and acquainted my lord of Ormond, that it was generally reported in town, and ſpread ſo far, as no man doubted it, that his excellency intended to deliver up the government to the parliament: that he came to acquaint his lordſhip, that himſelf was intruſted with the King's ſword of the city, and that he would not reſign it to rebels. Whereupon my lord of Ormond gave him ſome check, and ordered him to withdraw; but upon further conſideration, his lordſhip and the council thought fit to call him in again, and to commend him for the reſolution he had ſhewed in maintaining his Majeſty's authority; and withal read the letter from his Majeſty, requiring the lord lieutenant to deliver up the ſword to the commiſſioners impowered by the parliament of England; whereupon he ſaid he would ſubmit. How true this is, you may inform yourſelf on the place, my lord of Ormond being with you; but you have it as it has been related to me. On the other ſide, Sir John Tottie, who has been the principal incendiary in this city, was a trooper many years in Cromwell's army, a man wretchedly poor, and has patched up himſelf by preſents and otherwiſe, out of collections from ſeveral corporations of the city, to encourage and promote thoſe broils which have been among them.

This letter, I confeſs, is unreaſonably tedious; but believing there will not want ſome men on that ſide the water, as my lord privy ſeal by name, to aſſiſt theſe tedious people, if they bring a complaint there, I conceive it no leſs than neceſſary you ſhould be informed of all the circumſtances relating to theſe proceedings; and therefore, if motions ſhould be made to his Majeſty in behalf of Sir John Tottie and his crew,

crew, I only desire they may be left to law. Having nothing further to add, but to beg your excuse for this so long letter, I remain,

Your most faithful
humble servant,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Treasurer.

My Lord, Dublin Castle, June 15, 1675.

HAVING formerly troubled your lordship with some accounts of the disorders of this city of Dublin, and the several means I have used to bring them to quiet, gives me occasion to acquaint you with the further proceedings which have of late been amongst them.

Yesterday my lord mayor, with eighteen aldermen, and the sheriffs, appeared before me in council, giving us an account, that on Friday last, at an assembly of the city, the mayor and aldermen, once again proposed, the cancelling those entries in their books, which by our order, were required to be obliterated, and the commons refusing to comply therewith, they thought it their duty, taking the sheriffs along with them, who therein likewise concurred, to see our orders executed; and that accordingly, all these acts of assembly were rased, so as the city have among themselves, now complied with our command: how regular this proceeding has been,

in relation to the cuſtoms and practice of the city, I am not able to judge, tho' ſome of the eldeſt aldermen do ſay, they have good precedents for it; and that ſeveral times, when the commons have been refractory, the mayor, aldermen, and ſheriffs, have done their parts, in yielding obedience to public authority. I am apt to perſuade myſelf, that ſome petitions may be brought to his Majeſty in England, upon this matter, and the rather, becauſe ſir John Tottie, being one of the clerks of the Tholſel, and refuſing to obey the order of the mayor, aldermen, and ſheriffs, was by them degraded from being an alderman, and alſo turned out of the clerk of the Tholſel's place: but ſhould any complaints of this nature be made on that ſide the water, I humbly conceive it his Majeſty's beſt courſe, to leave them to their remedy at law, which truly I would have denied to no ſubject.

I am, your lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To

To Sir Henry Capel.

Dublin Caſtle, June 15, 1675.

Dear Brother,

I HAVE yours of the 8th, which gives me notice, that the queſtion between my lord of Ormond, and the commiſſioners of the treaſury here, is referred to me; the letter is come, tho' not yet brought to my hand, and I am told there is a clauſe in it, which has ordered, that the money in controverſy be depoſited, till the matter be determined; I confeſs I could have wiſhed, that this affair had received its judgment in England; yet, however, ſince 'tis his Majeſty's pleaſure to appoint me to conclude it, I ſhall to the beſt of my knowledge do right in the caſe to the perſons concerned.

Pray let Mr. Harbord and Mr. Godolphin know, that I have both theirs of the ſame date with yours, but there being nothing of conſequence to write to either of them, I only, by you, acknowledge their letters, remaining ever,

Your moſt affectionate brother,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Conway.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, June 19, 1675.

I HAVE yours of the 12th, wherein you mention ſomething of my lord Caſtlehaven, whom I think one of the ſtrangeſt men in the world, for I gave order, that his patent ſhould paſs, according to the intimation of my lord treaſurer's letter, and he employs no man to purſue his buſineſs, and yet is complaining that it goes not on: for any thing I wrote to his lordſhip, I am not much concerned who ſees it.

The reſult of the council, concerning my coming over, I have received, but I confeſs, I cannot but much wonder at a clauſe in the letter, for calling of a parliament here, againſt the firſt of September, it being utterly impracticable, and alſo inconvenient, and therefore I cannot imagine (there being none of the council then preſent, it conſiſting of Keeper, Treaſurer, Lauderdale, and the two ſecretaries, who could pretend truly to underſtand the affairs of this kingdom within itſelf) what perſon it ſhould be that did propoſe it: the time of calling a parliament, is one of the moſt material circumſtances relating thereunto; and I am certain, I never commiſſionated either your lordſhip, or my lord Ranelagh, to name the time, being fully convinced, that a parliament cannot be of any uſe to his Majeſty's ſervice, till the next year. I could ſend a whole bundle of reaſons, if it were material, and among the reſt, one, that his Majeſty was ever of opinion not to have a parliament here, and another in England, ſitting at the ſame time; and there being but ſix weeks between the firſt of September and the thirteenth of October, I am

ſure

ſure little or nothing can be done in ſo ſhort a ſpace.

Since your lordſhip, by your letter, deſires, rather to keep where you are, than to come over, I have nominated my lord chancellor and ſir Arthur Forbeſe, to be juſtices in my abſence. I am now in very good hopes that the city will become quiet again, Philpot their principal incendiary, being by a legal way, found guilty of ſeveral ſeditious practices, and the puniſhing of him, will, I am confident, maſter all the reſt.

Having many other diſpatches to make, I ſhall add no more, but remain,

Your lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Ranelagh.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, June 19, 1675.

WITH much ſatisfaction have I received yours of the 12th, and do aſſure your lordſhip, that if any miſapprehenſion ſhould fall out between myſelf and you (which I hope there never will) the fault ſhall not be on my ſide. I do well underſtand the poſt wherein I am, and that 'tis a duty incumbent upon me, to ſee all his Majeſty's miniſters and officers in this kingdom, to perform their ſeveral employments, honeſtly and juſtly towards his Majeſty; and for my own part, I will be true to the truſt repoſed in me: as for any deſigns your ill willers

may have to engage me, either to your own prejudice, or that of your undertaking, as they never have had, ſo neither ſhall they have any influence upon me, to injure your lordſhip in the leaſt. My coming over into England, may be of much advantage to his Majeſty's ſervice, and contribute a good deal towards the final ſettlement of this poor country, which was the only aim of my propoſing it; now perceiving that it is reſolved on that ſide the water, I ſhall be there within a ſhort time; I do forbear the anſwering ſome of your former letters till I ſee you, and particularly, the farmers petition to my lord treaſurer, wherein are things very conſiderable, and ſome not fit too haſtily to be complied with: the ſubſtance of what I have to ſay, I ſhall defer till I wait on my lord treaſurer, and remain,

Your lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Godolphin.

Dublin Caſtle, June 19, 1675.

Mr. Godolphin.

THERE is nothing in yours of the 12th, material, to anſwer, ſave only what you mention concerning my lord Ranelagh's telling my lady Danby, that he heard my lady Northumberland ſay, ſhe was glad of my coming over, &c. You may do well to employ the perſon from whom you had this, to aſſure my lady Danby of the falſehood thereof, for

for my lady Northumberland hath written with the moſt vehemence hither, to perſuade my ſtay, that can be imagined; and if you would get yourſelf, or any other employed, to aſk my lady Northumberland the queſtion, ſo it might be done without my lord Ranelagh's knowledge, I would forfeit my head, if the malice of this lie be not detected; I am ſure there are few things I would ſooner wiſh, than a diſcovery of this nature: my ſeveral other diſpatches hinder me from ſaying any thing to you upon the letter concerning my coming over, and the arts therein uſed, to render the letter itſelf inſignificant, but having writ at large upon this ſubject to Mr. ſecretary Coventry, you may from himſelf, or Mr. Thinne, learn what I have done. Pray tell Mr. Thinne, that I have ſeveral of his letters, but the multitude of other affairs, has hindered me from acknowledging them myſelf. Do not fail to let me know my lord treaſurer's motion, in order to his journey to the Bath, that if he be there, I may take that in my way to Windſor.

I am,

Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Secretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, June 19, 1675.

I HAVE received yours of the 12th inſtant, together with his Majeſty's letter of the ſame date, concerning my coming over; I do not know where it was drawn, but I fear thoſe clerks who penned it, did not examine precedents, it being much out of form; however, were that all, I ſhould not trouble you upon this ſubject, but I do find, that though the beginning of the letter gives a direction for me to come, yet the body of the letter impoſes ſomewhat upon me, which renders my journey impoſſible.

For in the firſt place, the preamble of the letter expreſſes, as if I had deſired to come over, which indeed was the preamble to my lord Berkley's, that he deſired to go into England, in relation to his own private affairs, whereas I have never pretended, nor indeed having any occaſion of my own to call me over, but only propoſing to his Majeſty, ſeveral matters relating to the public, which muſt be neceſſarily reſolved in England againſt Chriſtmas next, have humbly ſubmitted to his Majeſty's conſideration, whether my preſence may not be uſeful, when theſe matters ſhall be debated; I do with all humility conceive the preamble of the letter ought to be ſuitable to the occaſion, and in the ſtile of thoſe in my lord duke of Ormond's time, viz. Whereas, we, in our princely judgment, find it neceſſary, that you ſhould come to our preſence, that you may in your perſon inform us, of the preſent ſtate, &c. this as to the preface. In the next place, as to the body of the letter, it is expreſſed, that before my going over, I muſt ſummon a parliament, to be held here, againſt the

the firſt of September next; and that I bring over with me ſuch bills, as ſhall be thought fit to be paſſed in parliament: how unpracticable this is, any who underſtand the conſtitutions of this kingdom, can eaſily inform you: when a parliament is called here, bills are firſt to be prepared by the council of Ireland, then tranſmitted and approved by the privy council of England, and upon their remittal back into Ireland, under the great ſeal of England, with that remitter comes a commiſſion under the great ſeal of England, to hold a parliament here, after which, writs are to be iſſued, and you all know there muſt be forty days time between the iſſuing of the writs, and the ſitting of the parliament; now then let any man compute the time: this letter is dated the 12th of June, and received in Ireland the 17th of June, and the writs muſt be iſſued the 22d of July; ſo as to draw the bills by the king's council here, to paſs them in privy council here, to tranſmit them into England, and have them all paſſed in council there, and remitted back hither again, there is but barely five weeks time, and then too I am obliged to ſtay till all this be done, which as aforeſaid will be the 22d of July, and to be back by the firſt of September; ſo as in effect, it is to direct, I muſt not come this ſummer: true it is, that all lord lieutenants have a clauſe in their commiſſion, empowering them to hold a parliament here; yet parliaments have not been uſually called, upon that general clauſe in the chief governors patent, without a particular commiſſion for that purpoſe, and indeed by Poyning's law, no parliament can be held without a ſpecial commiſſion.

But if nothing of this were, 'tis certainly the moſt unſeaſonable time in the whole year for a parliament to ſit, the firſt of September being the middle of their harveſt,

harveſt, when the country gentlemen will be unwilling to attend; and beſides, it will be very inconvenient for the lieutenant to iſſue writs for the holding a parliament, and the elections to be made in his abſence, for it may be of more importance to his Majeſty's affairs, to have the lieutenant in the country, in order to the diſcourſing with men, concerning theſe elections; and taking care that fit perſons be choſen, than that he ſhould be upon the place at the opening of the ſeſſions; it is indeed one of the propoſals in my letter to his Majeſty, to adviſe of the calling a parliament here, but the conſideration of the time, is certainly a principal point to be reſolved of, and I am certain it cannot be convenient to do it till after Chriſtmas next, both in regard the country is at preſent very poor, and likewiſe that the payment of the ſupply of the years value (which is a general tax) will not be at an end till Michaelmas; and alſo, that the farm, and my lord Ranelagh's contract, both determine at Chriſtmas, it will then be ſeen in what ſtate his Majeſty's treaſury is, and conſequently what proportion the need of the public will be for money; add to this, that it will be very inconvenient to have a parliament ſitting here, and one in England, at the ſame time, which will neceſſarily follow, let men fancy what they pleaſe in point of diſpatch, if this be called on the firſt of September, and that in England meet on the 13th of October.

I conceive I have ſaid enough in relation to this letter, and therefore ſhall trouble you no further, but with the draft of a letter here ſent over, anſwerable to the precedents of thoſe in my lord of Ormond's time, which you may pleaſe to offer to his Majeſty's ſignature, and conſidering the ſeaſon of the year, I would

would be glad ſo ſoon as may be, to know what I am to do.

I am,

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

Right Truſty, &c.

WHEREAS, we, in our princely judgment, do find it neceſſary, that you ſhould repair to our preſence, that you may in your own perſon inform us of the preſent ſtate of that our kingdom, and underſtand our pleaſure and reſolutions, in ſundry particulars concerning our important affairs there: we have therefore thought fit to ſignify our royal pleaſure to you, and we do hereby ſufficiently authorize you forthwith, upon the receipt of theſe our letters, or ſo ſoon after as you ſhall find it expedient, to repair to our preſence, that we and our council may adviſe at large with you, and receive information from you, touching the preſent ſtate and affairs of that our kingdom; and, becauſe it is fit, that the government there, ſhould be ſupplied with ſome meet perſons, to manage the affairs of that our realm, during our abſence, we have made choice of the moſt reverend father in God, Michael, lord archbiſhop of Dublin, our chancellor of that our kingdom, and of our right truſty and well beloved councellor ſir Arthur Forbeſe, baronet, our marſhal of our army there, to be our juſtices; and accordingly, we do hereby authorize and require you, by commiſſion, under our great ſeal of that our kingdom, to aſſign and appoint them the ſaid lord archbiſhop of Dublin, and the ſaid ſir Arthur Forbeſe, jointly, to be our juſtices

juſtices in that our kingdom, during our pleaſure, for the government thereof, in your abſence, until you ſhall return thither for the government thereof, and to do all things according to the tenor of the ſaid letters patents to be granted unto them, with ſuch inſtructions for the good of our ſervice, and for the welfare of our people, as you ſhall think fit to leave with them, ſigned under your hand, as our lieutenant general and general governor of that our kingdom, without any revocation or diminution of your authority; and it is our pleaſure, and we do hereby authorize you, that you cauſe a clauſe to be inſerted in the ſaid letters patents, to be granted to our ſaid juſtices, to be appointed as aforeſaid, that the ſaid letters patents, or any thing therein to be contained, ſhall no ways avoid, determine, or annihilate any power or authority given unto you by our letters patents, bearing date the one and twentieth day of May, in the four and twentieth year of our reign, but that the ſame ſhall be valid unto you, to all intents and purpoſes, with all juriſdictions, benefits, profits, entertainments, rights, and privileges whatſoever, granted unto you, as fully, amply, and beneficially, to all intents and purpoſes, as if the ſaid letters patents never had been granted; and it is alſo our pleaſure, and we do hereby authorize you, to cauſe a clauſe to be inſerted in the ſaid letters patents to be granted to the ſaid lord archbiſhop of Dublin, and ſir Arthur Forbeſe, as aforeſaid, that the ſaid letters patents, or any thing thereunto to be contained, ſhall no way avoid, determine, or annihilate, or be any way conſtrued to avoid, determine, or annihilate, any office or offices, power or authority given unto them, or either of them, but that the ſame ſhall be valid unto them, to

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all intents and purpoſes, with all juriſdictions, benefits, profits, entertainments, rights, and privileges whatſoever, granted to them, or either of them, as fully, amply, and beneficially, to all intents and purpoſes, as if the ſaid letters patents, now intended to be granted to them, as our juſtices aforeſaid, had never been had or granted; any thing to be contained in ſuch letters patents, to be granted to them as our juſtices aforeſaid, to the contrary notwithſtanding. And we do alſo authorize you, to cauſe a commiſſion to be iſſued under the great ſeal of that our kingdom, directed to our right truſty and well beloved counſellors, thereby authoriſing them, or any of them, to adminiſter to our ſaid juſtices, the oaths uſually taken by our juſtices for the government of that our kingdom; and albeit, we have thus ſignified our pleaſure unto you, for your repair hither, and diſpoſing of the government in your abſence; yet if you ſhall find any indiſpoſition of your body, to come hither, and return in ſo ſhort ſpace of time, as may be neceſſary for our preſent affairs on that ſide, or that any reaſon of ſtate ſhall occur with you, which in your judgment, you ſhall hold fit to detain you there, for the advancement of our ſervice, then in ſuch caſe, we do not ſo ſtrictly enjoin you to the performance thereof, but that we do leave it freely to your own choice, to come or ſtay, as you ſhall think fit for our ſervice: and theſe our letters ſhall be unto you, and all others whom it may concern, a ſufficient warrant in that behalf. Given, &c.

To

To Mr. ſecretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, June 19, 1675.

FROM ſeveral of my friends in England, I underſtand how induſtrious you have been in the inclining of his Majeſty to ſend for me over, that I might perſonally give him an account of his affairs under my charge; I do give you many thanks for it, and doubt not but his Majeſty, when I come over, will find reaſon to believe you have done him good ſervice therein, for I am confident the King does not know the true ſtate of his treaſury here, nor how much he will remain in debt, after my lord Ranelagh has gone through with his undertaking; beſides, there are divers payments and ſums of money, which by the covenants in my lord Ranelagh's contract, ſeem to be dubious whether they ſhould reſt on the king, or on the undertakers, and theſe amount to no leſs than threeſcore or fourſcore thouſand pounds, all which I find the partners here, conſtrue to their own advantage, tho' for my own part, I cannot judge that the king ought to bear them, at leaſt, not all that will be demanded; that therefore his Majeſty might have a clear information of the former, and might hear ſome one ſpeak in his own behalf to the latter, before the winding up and ſettling of all reckonings, was a principal inducement to me, to propoſe this journey; whereunto, if you add the other conſiderations, in order to the final ſettlement of this kingdom, mentioned in my paper ſent to you by Mr. Godolphin, all of them of publick concernment, you have my whole deſign in coming over.

I have nothing to write further, but to tell you, that I do not find ſir Arthur Forbeſe ſo unwilling to undertake

undertake the part of a lord juſtice, as ſome have repreſented; I ſpoke of it to him above a fortnight ſince, and he ſhewed no unwillingneſs, and I told him of it again yeſterday, and he then readily embraced it; he is a worthy gentleman, as any I have ever known, and always ready to ſerve the crown, wherever he is commanded; pray do him right on all occaſions on that ſide the water.

I am, moſt affectionately,
your faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

Note encloſed in this Letter.

If you think it convenient, you may ſhew this letter to his Majeſty, or otherwiſe keep it to yourſelf, which you conceive beſt, for I never wrote any thing but what I can juſtify.

To Mr. Harbord.

Dublin Caſtle, June 19, 1675.

Mr. Harbord.

I HAVE yours of the 12th; as to what relates to my lord Caſtlehaven, I find his lordſhip in an abſolute miſtake, for he wrote a letter to me, deſiring I would paſs his patent for five hundred pounds *per annum* penſion, and alſo paſs his Majeſty's letter, which was for the abating of his quit-rents; and at the ſame time, I received a letter from my lord treaſurer, that that for the quit-rents ſhould be ſtopt, and that the other for the patent ſhould not take effect

effect till after Chriſtmas next; Mr. Beecher had then immediately order to paſs his penſion, according to the limitation in my lord treaſurer's letter, but no body calls for it, nor has he employed any agent, that I can hear of, tho' I have made enquiries, ſo that I know not what he expects, unleſs he would have me ſollicit his affairs myſelf, and when letters are ſent, that I ſhould carry them through the offices; wherefore, I would be glad, that at ſome leiſure time, you would acquaint his Majeſty, that the reaſon he has been ſo troubleſome, is purely, for that the poor man knows not how to follow his own buſineſs.

Mr. Hallyard and captain Hamond ſhall have licence, as is deſired. There ſhall be a commiſſion for captain Prieſtman, to come in the place of ſir Roger Strickland; only in regard I have nothing but juſt the letter for it, I would have a line or two from ſir George Strickland, of his conſent, it being ever my rule to hear from the perſon himſelf concerned, ere I grant the commiſſion, or otherwiſe it will look like a caſhiering him. My lord of Tyrone is now here in Ireland, and never went over. The letter for my coming into England I have received, but I am amazed at ſeveral things in it, for in the firſt place, 'tis quite out of the form of any letters that have been writ of this nature; and in the next place, tho' in the beginning it directs I ſhould come over, ſo ſoon as I ſhould think fit, yet afterwards, it appoints me to prepare all ſuch bills ready, as ſhall be neceſſary to be offered at a parliament here, and iſſue writs likewiſe before my coming over, for the ſummoning a parliament againſt the firſt day of September next, which is as much as to ſay, I ſhould not come at all, for 'tis impoſſible to have theſe bills drawn and paſſed

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in council, under three months time; but that which amazeth me moſt of all, is, that in your letter you ſeem to applaud yourſelf very much, as if a great point were gained, in calling this parliament againſt September next, and ſome touches likewiſe in my brother Henry's letter, do confirm me, that yourſelf and he had a hand in propoſing it; whether you had or no, is not very clear to me, but till I received your letter, and ſaw theſe particulars therein, I did rather preſume it had been purely a fetch of my lord Ranelagh's; I made no doubt, if you and my brother were the movers thereof, it was with a good intent towards me, believing that if writs were iſſued for the calling of a parliament, it would ſecure my coming back, but I muſt confeſs I am an utter enemy to any thing of practice or artifice; and when I recollect how often I have preſſed you to uſe plain dealing, I ſhould very much wonder if now you ſhould be guilty of a ſlight of this ſort: it is impoſſible to have a parliament meet in Ireland under ſix months time, and I am ſure the kingdom cannot be ready to have one (their preſent poverty being ſuch) till the next year, beſides, the firſt of September is the midſt of their harveſt, and divers other reaſons ſuperfluous to be added, may be given againſt it; but if you and my brother have been conſenting to this particular, which relates to a parliament, I believe my lord Conway and lord Ranelagh laugh bravely in their ſleeves, to ſee how egregiouſly they have chouſed you both. Pray ſhew my brother Henry this letter, and tell him I have many hawks here more than my falconers can keep, I would be glad my brother Strangwais would immediately ſend for ſome of them. Mr. Philpot the principal incendiary of this city, is now found guilty, by a

jury in the king's bench, of ſeveral ſeditious practices, and I believe will be fined very deeply; you muſt uſe your utmoſt endeavours with the ſecretaries, that none beg this fine to bring him off, for the peace of this city will never be eſtabliſhed without the puniſhing of ſome of theſe fomenters of theſe late contentions.

I am,

Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Secretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, June 19, 1675.

THIS ſerves only to encloſe a draft of a letter, in behalf of Mr. Leigh; it is the ſame in effect with a former letter, under the ſignet, dated the 5th of December 1674, only with ſome few amendments, to make it the more regular; this being a favour his Majeſty already had granted, I ſee no inconvenience in the renewing thereof, and therefore humbly offer it to you for his Majeſty's ſignature.

I am,

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To

To Mr. Harbord.

Mr. Harbord, Dublin Caſtle, June 20, 1675.

THIS bearer, Mr. Taylor, now going into England, with the books of the diſcoveries of land, has engaged to me, that he will permit no perſon to view them before I come over; I thought fit to let you know this, that in caſe there ſhould be any ſtirring in this affair, you might put a ſtop to it until my arrival.

I am,

Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To the lord Ranelagh.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, June 22, 1675.

I HAVE juſt now received your lordſhip's of the 15th inſtant, together with the papers enclоſed: as to the objections in relation to the farmers accounts, I have not yet had leiſure to peruſe them fully, they being very large, nor has your lordſhip in your letter mentioned what uſe is to be made of them: that the farmers have ſent over conſiderable ſums of money, is out of all peradventure; your lordſhip ſays, you know not how to give me a demonſtration of it, and indeed it may ſeem a little difficult to do it, yet I doubt not by that time I come over into England, if it be of any concern to his Majeſty's buſineſs, to be able to give an account

of every particular relating thereunto. I wrote this letter in ſome haſte, but am loath to let the poſt go out, this being the night of their departure, without acknowledging the receipt of your lordſhip's: by the next I may write more. I am,

Your Lordſhip's

moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Harbord.

Dublin Caſtle, June 22, 1675.

Mr. Harbord,

I Have received one of yours, one of my brother Henry's, and one from Mr. Godolphin, all dated the 15th inſtant; but having written the laſt packet to yourſelf and Mr. Godolphin, I have nothing further to add, only to deſire you to acknowledge the receipt of the letters, and remain,

Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To

To Mr. Godolphin.

Dublin Caſtle, June 26, 1675.

Mr. Godolphin,

I Send you here encloſed a paper of exceptions to an account delivered in upon oath by captain Stone, Mr. Richardſon, &c. It came to me from my lord Ranelagh, but he gives no notice who is the author thereof; wherefore not knowing how far it may have gone, or whether the King may not have had a ſight of it, I deſire you would endeavour to ſhew them privately to his Majeſty. They are ſo long, as 'tis not fit to trouble him to read them all over; but if he pleaſe to caſt his eye on a line or two of them, and does but recollect whether any ſuch paper hath come to his Majeſty's view, it will be enough: which, if he have, I do moſt humbly deſire his Majeſty would be pleaſed to order the author to ſtand to it, and juſtify it when I come over: in the mean time, that his Majeſty (till he can hear me ſpeak) would be ſo gracious as not to retain any impreſſion one way or other from it. It is no new thing to me to be attacked in this manner; for after I had taken all the care I could, both in acquainting his Majeſty, and ſtaying 'till I had received his commands, in order to the regulating corporations here; yet, when the rules were made, though preciſely anſwerable to his Majeſty's appointment, there were, nevertheleſs, ſome in England who ſcattered objections againſt them, moſt falſly and maliciouſly expoſing both myſelf and the government here: but when I had recovered my health (for I was then ſick) and ſent over anſwers to thoſe objections, the truth came to be ſo fully known, as no man I can

ever hear of ſince but reſted ſatisfied that I had done my duty exactly in that particular. As for this preſent paper, it is in ſome parts falſe, in many others impertinent, and all of it very malicious. But I will venture my life, and all I have in this world, that every paſſage relating to myſelf, when I come to ſpeak, will be cleared: and for what concerns the commiſſioners of Cork-houſe, they ought, as I conceive, to anſwer for themſelves. Upon the whole, I deſire you will uſe effectual means to diſcover the author, that when I have the opportunity to juſtify myſelf, he may receive his due puniſhment for attempting ſo falſly to aſperſe me. I am,

Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Godolphin.

Dublin Caſtle, June 26, 1675.

Mr. Godolphin,

I Have yours of the 19th, wherein you tell me, you conceive you have found a way how to inſinuate things to my lord Treaſurer, with that effect, as he may truly underſtand what ſort of man my lord Ranelagh is, but that you want matter to offer: I know no one thing wherein it can be better compaſſed, than by diſcovering that impudent lie, which he told my lady Danby, as diſcourſe coming from my lady Northumberland. If Sir William Temple be in town, (he being very well with and allied to my lord Treaſurer's family, and alſo particularly acquainted

quainted with my lady Northumberland, and beſides perfectly my friend, and a man who thoroughly underſtands my lord Ranelagh) he may be a very proper inſtrument for this purpoſe. My lord Treaſurer may be alſo minded what lies my lord Ranelagh told him to gain a commiſſion for the earl of Orrery laſt year, ſaying, that the military powers of the preſident of Munſter were not required of my lord Orrery to be reſigned, and that he gave them up voluntarily. My lord Treaſurer ſhould recollect who convinced him of this miſtake, and into what briars the then ignorance of the truth was likely to have drawn him. You ſhould uſe all the means you can, by ſuch as are proper hands, to convince the Treaſurer, that I have no aims at his diſſervice; and for the truth of this, I am ſure, you know it fully: and beſides, to let him know, that ſince his Majeſty has ordered a great ſhare of the buſineſs of this kingdom to come through his lordſhip's hands, I am ſo much his ſervant, as I would take this journey, if it were only to ſpeak with him, that he may have a right impreſſion of things here: and let his lordſhip be aſſured, he is not truly informed of the ſtate of the revenue of this kingdom: and may I but be ſuffered to come upon equal terms with thoſe who pretend to know it, and be permitted to ſpeak as well as they, and not be put only to write, I will loſe my life if I do not ſhew his lordſhip that he is in danger to be led into many errors. My lord Treaſurer is a man whom I never had the honour to be perſonally acquainted with; but certainly he cannot be the wiſe man the world takes him for, if he will venture at the diſpatch of buſineſs, and not ſuffer himſelf to be rightly informed therein, but in affairs concerning his Majeſty's intereſt, only takes his meaſures from

what he hears from parties concerned in profit and gain againſt his Majeſty, and not hear any one ſpeak in the King's behalf. This, together with other publick things in the paper ſent by you (as you well know) was the only deſign and aim of my coming over. If men will take up imaginations in their heads that there is more in it, I know not how to help it. I cannot but a little wonder Mr. ſecretary Coventry ſhould be diſſatisfied at my diſpoſing of the place Mr. Glaſcock formerly had: there are but three commiſſioners of appeal on the eſtabliſhment, two whereof muſt be to make a *quorum*; and 'tis wonderful to me, why men ſhould expect to have places which require their preſence, only to turn them into penſions, and never attend the duty thereof. I thought I had dealt very kindly with Mr. Glaſcock in giving it him at firſt, and diſplacing ſome others who were in it before: but to be rewarded with ill will for having done a kindneſs, and not continuing it when the publick ſhould ſuffer thereby, I do not at all underſtand. Sure I am, if Mr. ſecretary Coventry conſiders it rightly, he cannot think amiſs thereof. My other letter you may ſhew to the King; eſpecially if I find he hath ever ſeen theſe exceptions encloſed. To repair the defect of not writing to the Duke when I ſent you over, herewith you will receive a letter to his Highneſs, a copy whereof is encloſed for your peruſal, which you may either deliver or let alone, as you ſee cauſe. I am,

Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To

To the Duke.

Dublin Caſtle, June 26, 1675.

May it pleaſe your Highneſs,

AT the time when I ſent Mr. Godolphin into England, my intelligence told me, that your Highneſs did decline as much as might be the interpoſing in any buſineſs whatſoever; and judging it unfit for any ſubject to give unneceſſary trouble to a perſon of ſo exalted a birth as is your Highneſs, was the true cauſe I charged him with none of my letters to your Highneſs. The real grounds of my propoſing this journey were all of them contained in the letter I wrote to his Majeſty. If my coming over be permitted, I ſhall give his Majeſty an impartial account of his affairs in this country, and tender ſuch matters to conſideration, as in my apprehenſion will conduce to the future advantage and ſettlement of this kingdom. It will alſo add much to my ſatisfaction to enjoy the honour of kiſſing your Highneſs's hand; and by being on the place, to have frequent opportunity of expreſſing the reality and unfeignedneſs wherewith I am

Your Highneſs's

moſt humble and moſt obedient ſervant,

ESSEX.

To

To the Duke of Monmouth.

Dublin Caſtle, June 26, 1675.

My Lord,

THE reaſon I have been ſo long in anſwering your Grace's letter relating to your ſiſter's concern, hath not been my fault. but Mr. Attorney's, who hath all this time been collecting the ſtate of the caſe here encloſed, that your Grace may adviſe upon it in England, to do therein as you thing fit. Sir Theophilus Jones hath not as yet paſſed any lands in patent, but hath brought in ſeveral diſcoveries, which are almoſt compleated. I ſhall not ſign any thing to him, 'till your Grace directs upon what terms, and to what uſes the lands given up by him ſhall be conſigned; and ſuch rules as your Grace ſhall pleaſe to order herein, ſhall moſt punctually be obſerved by,

Your Grace's
moſt faithful and moſt humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Sir William Temple.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, June 26, 1675.

MY journey into England, which was of my own propoſing, has, I perceive, occaſioned a great deal of diſcourſe there, and moſt of my friends are of opinion that I have not done well therein: but 'tis

'tis impoſſible for them to know the circumſtances of affairs, and conſequently cannot be judges of what is proper for me to do. I aſſure you, that however ſatisfied I am with my employment, which I look upon to be the very beſt his Majeſty has to give, yet I do find I cannot ſtay longer in it, and be an honeſt man, unleſs I have the opportunity to diſcourſe a little with his Majeſty, to ſet ſome things right in order to his ſervice, which is impoſſible to be tranſacted by letters. When I heard your excellency was coming into England, I was in hope that my good fortune might have been to have met you there; but the delay that ſome men, who are unwilling his Majeſty ſhould know the truth, have put upon my journey, makes me fear I ſhall not reach London ſo ſoon as to ſee you. I am with perfect truth,

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Secretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, June 26th, 1675.

MY laſt letter from Mr. Thinne brings me an account that you have lately been indiſpoſed, but I hope, when this comes to your hand, it will find you perfectly recovered. The more I reflect upon the letter of calling a parliament here, I am ſtill in the more amazement, for I daily ſee greater unpracticableneſs in the thing, and ſuch as I wonder any on that ſide ſhould be ignorant of. Beſides the objections offered in a former letter of mine, there

are

are others very material, which did not juſt then occur to me, as this; the ſeaſon of the year being ſuch as the judges will be all in their circuits, and the lawyers out of town, when theſe bills are to be drawn; and it is a conſtant rule here, when bills are to be prepared, a committee of the council is appointed, of which all the chief judges are to be of the number for the peruſing theſe bills, ſo as either the kingdom muſt be without juſtice for this year, or bills muſt be drawn contrary to all former practice, and by perſons who are not proper to do them. I have been a little perplexed within myſelf, how this propoſal took it riſe; and upon peruſal of my letters, I find in one to my lord Treaſurer of the 30th of November laſt, being an anſwer to his lordſhip's of the wherein he deſired to know my opinion concerning the calling of the parliament here, and the time I told his lordſhip, that in caſe the country continued to improve, as ſince the war it began, I then preſumed we might be ready for a parliament this ſummer, only with this caution, that it would not be convenient that a parliament were ſitting here and in England at the ſame time; wherefore I could ſay nothing poſitive as to the time: Now if this paſſage were read, and open, it inferred, that it was my opinion that a parliament might be called this ſummer. If you obſerve what I have here truly recited, you will find, that I am far from being poſitive as to the time of convening it: beſides, it might be my opinion, and on ſubſtantial grounds enough, in November, that a parliament ſhould be called the next ſummer; but circumſtances may vary between that and June (which is half a year) as I may with good reaſon alter my advice: and therefore it is a very hard caſe to oblige a man, had I been never ſo poſitive

poſitive then, to continue of the ſame ſenſe ſix months after, and not alter, tho' he ſees the world change about him. I do aſſure you, this kingdom, by reaſon of the extraordinary unſeaſonableneſs of the ſpring, and the ſharp courſes taken both by the farmers and the commiſſioners of the treaſury, to get in their money, this being the laſt year of the firſt of theſe, and the laſt likewiſe with the other, for the payment of the eſtabliſhment, and other debts due to the army, &c. has made the country ſo very poor, as no man could foreſee it three months ago. Add to this, this letter of the 30th of November was ſent over by my lord Ranelagh, who knew well enough the practice of things here, and well underſtood that the forms are ſuch as a parliament cannot be called under ſix months preparation; and therefore I did expect to have heard from my lord Treaſurer his Majeſty's pleaſure before Chriſtmas laſt, in caſe a parliament had been deſigned here this ſummer. I am ſure, ſhould there meet one before my lord Ranelagh's undertaking be determined and adjuſted, it would not ſerve his turn, to reckon with the commiſſioners of accounts; for the houſe of commons here would infallibly, after the example of that in England (who now begin to inſpect his Majeſty's revenue, and pretend to direct how it ſhould be diſpoſed, before they give any money) require an account of his lordſhip's undertakings; and this, I am certain, the wit of man could not prevent: but if this propoſal of calling a parliament in ſuch a hurry, be only a block caſt in the way, that I may not ſpeak with his Majeſty, I hope his Majeſty would be pleaſed to conſider, whether he hath not ſome times already been in danger to be led out of the way upon wrong ſuggeſtions; witneſs the commiſſion intended

laſt

laſt ſummer for the earl of Orrery, and that upon theſe occaſions I have ever acted with truth; and that if he pleaſes to admit me to his preſence, he ſhall know the whole ſtate of this kingdom; and I will tell him nothing but what I will juſtify to the face of any man whatſoever. Yet, ſhould it be thought unfit for me to come, I ſhall then write my mind plainly and clearly, not valuing my employment, or any thing in the world equal to the proving myſelf an entire honeſt man. By a letter out of the country from one Mr. Thompſon, a Scotch miniſter, who has been employed by me on my lord of Ormond's recommendation, as a ſpy among the preſbyterians, I have this account, which I ſend in the encloſed paper; and tho' I do not find the man to have any great matter in him, yet theſe things ſeem ſo particular as to be worthy your notice. If my lord of Ormond hath not left England, you may from him be informed how far this man is fit to be believed. Mr. Harbord will offer you a letter for his Majeſty's ſignature, in behalf of Mr. Adworth, who is my cloſet ſecretary, and hath taken much pains with me; and I have never had the opportunities to gratify him in any thing. I have ſpoken with ſome of the judges, who conceive this propoſal very reaſonable, and is ſuiting with the practice in England. I ſhould be glad the forms might be alike here. If the letter is once ſigned, and come over, I ſhall, before I paſs the grant, hear any objections that may be made to it, tho' truly I can foreſee none.

I am, with all ſincerity imaginable,

Your moſt faithful,

and moſt humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

There

There is an appointment of many of the diſcontented people in Scotland, and others of the northern parts of England, to meet at Berwick, or ſome where very near it, on the 16th of July next, there to conſult of carrying on the common concern. Notice is given out of Scotland to the preſbyterians in Ireland, that ſix of their miniſters are newly gone to London to confer with their brethren there concerning the ordering of their church: their names Mr. Leverſtone, Mr Hutchinſon, Mr. Sterling, Mr. Forchere Young, Mr. Blair, Mr. Wache.

To the Lord Treaſurer.

My Lord,

Dublin Caſtle, June 26, 1675.

I Have lately received a paper of objections to the accounts of the farmers here, which was formerly tranſmitted to your lordſhip: and tho' it came from my lord Ranelagh, who I am confident will be ſo careful of your lordſhip, as to ſhew it you, as well as ſend it to me; yet leſt any neglect of that ſort ſhould happen, I thought it the ſecureſt way to tranſmit a copy of them to your lordſhip. I am ſorry they are ſigned by no hand; and indeed, it is a very unreaſonable thing, that a liberty ſhould be taken by men to aſperſe perſons of quality, and in eminent place, and not appear who they are that do it. Much of this paper ſeems to be very impertinent, and not at all to the purpoſe. Some things there are which carry aſperſions to myſelf, and others which can be pointed at none but your lordſhip: therefore I hope you

you will be pleaſed to find out the author, that when I come into England your lordſhip and myſelf may prepare for our common defence. The letter, in form, which I received in relation to my going into England, and the calling of a parliament here, being underwritten by Mr. ſecretary Coventry, I gave him an account of the unpracticableneſs thereof; but if there were no more than this in it, that all the judges are in their circuits, and the lawyers in their buſineſs in the country, it makes the thing impoſſible, in regard that without their aſſiſtance we cannot prepare bills fit to paſs: beſides, the ſtraitneſs of time is ſuch, that had I never ſo many helps, I could not go through with the work. I did, indeed, in a letter to your lordſhip of the 30th of November, mention this ſummer as probable to be a ſeaſonable time for calling a palriament here, but ſaid nothing poſitive therein; and ſending this letter by my lord Ranelagh, who knew that a parliament cannot be called here under ſix months preparation, and hearing nothing further from your lordſhip at Chriſtmas laſt, I therefore concluded that his Majeſty had laid the thoughts thereof aſide till another year. One of the greateſt matters in calling a parliament, to make it ſucceſsful for his Majeſty's ſervice, will be to take care of elections of members into the houſe of commons: and 'tis not here as in England, where recommendations from the court do rather hinder than help one to be choſen; for if the lieutenant be a man beloved and upon the place, he may, with care, make the houſe of commons be almoſt what he will. Indeed, I would be very loth to promiſe good ſucceſs in a parliament, if I be abſent out of the country whilſt the elections are making. I find thoſe of the Romiſh perſuaſion in this kingdom very much

diſturbed

diſturbed at the noiſe of a parliament here; and there is an unlucky ſtory come over in letters from London (how true I know not, for not one word of it is in any of mine) that my lord Conway and my lord Ranelagh have undertaken to his Majeſty, if there be a parliament, they ſhall give him three hundred thouſand pounds. Your lordſhip, who has ſo great experience in parliamentary affairs or proceedings, cannot but know how miſchievous any ſuch thing would be for any one to undertake; and the report thereof (though falſe) is enough to obſtruct his Majeſty's ſervice. I omit a good deal more which I could ſay upon this and other ſubjects, hoping ere long to wait on your lordſhip in perſon, where I may have the opportunity to diſcourſe with you concerning all affairs, and likewiſe to expreſs the ſincerity wherewith I am,

Your lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the lord Ranelagh.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, June 26, 1675.

THE exceptions to the accounts which your lordſhip formerly tranſmitted, I have peruſed, and do give you many thanks for your kindneſs in ſending them over. You cannot do me a greater favour in any ſort, than early acquainting me with matters of this nature. I am only troubled that you ſent me not the name of the author; but I hope

your lordſhip will be diligent in the enquiry who it was that framed them; for there being many things therein which obliquely caſt reflections upon me, and ſome others which blemiſh my lord Treaſurer, I hope your lordſhip will be induſtrious, when two of your friends are concerned, and thoſe men in eminent place, to diſcover who compoſed them, and uſe ſuch means as the perſon may not retract what he has ſaid; that ſo when I am in England, I may have the opportunity of clearing myſelf, and my lord Treaſurer likewiſe may vindicate his own honour.

Yours of the 19th is alſo come, together with the encloſed. I know not what men mean in raiſing aſperſions upon thoſe that are here; for I was near two years in this kingdom before I ever heard or knew any thing of this grant to my lady Portſmouth. The firſt news that came to me was in a letter from one of the Secretaries, about half or three quarters of a year ago, which told me, that there was a ſuit with one Hawkins for 9000l. due to his Majeſty, and that there had been ſome ſlackneſs both in the court and King's council in the proſecution thereof; whereupon I ſent for Mr. Attorney and Mr. Sollicitor, and commanded them to proſecute it with effect; and alſo I told my lord chief Baron, that he ſhould, without other delay than what the neceſſary forms of law require, proceed ſpeedily to judgment. I heard no more of this matter till ſome months after Mr. Hawkins preferred a petition to the privy council, complaining of a judgment, as I take it, againſt him in the Exchequer. This petition, I think, we diſmiſſed, ſending it to the judge to which it properly belonged Hawkins has ſince taken ſome exceptions to the juriſdiction of the court of chancery, in the exchequer; and being a very clamorous man, did threaten

threaten to carry his caſe over to the parliament in England, and petition the houſe of commons there, as being the benefit of Magna Charta, and a trial at common law. This, and taking a little time to peruſe precedents, hath, as I am told, made the court a little ſlacker in their proceedings. By good luck your lordſhip's letters arrived on Thurſday, the term being out, and my lord chief Baron preparing for a journey to the Bath. Had it come three days later, the buſineſs muſt have ſtayed till November next: but immediately on the receipt of them, I ſpoke with the chancellor of the exchequer, who tells me they have found two precedents in the point; and I have ordered my lord chief Baron not to ſtir out of town till judgment be given in the caſe. This part of my letter you may, if you pleaſe, read to my lady dutcheſs of Portſmouth. 'Tis wrote in haſte, having many other diſpatches to make. I am,

Your lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Sir Hans Hamilton.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, June 26, 1675.

BY this laſt packet I received an order of council, relating to the concern of the 49 officers, a copy whereof is herewith incloſed, whereby you will underſtand what effect my letters have had in that buſineſs. I have nothing to add, but to deſire you

to enquire of the affairs I entruſted you with, concerning the troops and companies of the army which lay near you, and hope you will not forget to give me a punctual account therein, who am,

Your moſt faithful ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Sir Henry Capel.

Dear Brother,

Dublin Caſtle, June 26, 1675.

I HAVE yours of the 19th, which adviſes I ſhould have no coaches to attend me into town when I ſhall come to London, and that for fear of encreaſing the jealouſy which ſome cauſeleſsly have of my coming. My lord Conway long ago, in diſcourſe, told me, that the uſual cuſtom was, when the lieutenant of Ireland came to town, that his Majeſty did ſend one of his own coaches the laſt day to bring him in. My directions to Mr. Godolphin was, that he ſhould enquire what was cuſtomary, and that I deſired the ſame ſhould be done. For my own part, I think the affecting any thing extraordinary, either of ſplendor, or the forbidding that which is the common practice, will ſhew an arrogance in any man, and conſequently increaſe the ſuſpicions which men of this age are ſo apt to create; and therefore I am ſtill of the ſame opinion, that the ordinary cuſtom ſhould be kept, and nothing more or leſs done than it, which is all I have to ſay upon this ſubject, who am,

Your moſt affectionate brother,

ESSEX.

Pray

Pray let me have a good perriwig made againſt I come, and, if you will, a plain ſuit of ſtuff cloaths, in the faſhion, with black ribbons, to meet me at the laſt day's journey.

To Mr. Harbord.

Dublin Caſtle, June 26, 1675.

Mr. Harbord,

I Received yours of the 19th. The Norwich frigate, commanded by captain London, being in this harbour, I intended ſhould carry me over, when I went for England, and a day or two after I had told captain London thereof, there came an order out of England, that he ſhould attend my lord of Orrery at Minehead; but the Monmouth yatch, ſent out of England, being juſt arrived at this port, I thought it would not be diſagreeable to his Majeſty's pleaſure, that I ſhould take my choice, and my lord of Orrery have the other veſſel. Captain London being the very ſame man who brought me hither at my firſt coming, I have reſolved to take him, and have ordered the yatch forthwith to ſet ſail, and wait on my lord of Orrery at Minehead. Thus much it may be neceſſary for you to let his Majeſty know, that captain London may bear no blame. There is a letter incloſed in behalf of Mr. Aldworth, which I look upon as a reaſonable thing, and you well know, that I have hitherto been able to do nothing for him; therefore I would have you get it diſpatch'd. Having nothing further, I remain,

Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

Right Truſty, &c.

WHEREAS the employment of drawing, writing, preparing, and engroſſing, all and every the writs of *ſubpœna*, iſſuing, or to be iſſued out of the high court of chancery, in our kingdom of Ireland, under the great ſeal thereof, as well writs of *ſubpœna ad comparendum*, and writs of *ſubpœna ad teſtificandum*, as all other writs of *ſubpœna*, of what nature, name, condition, quality, or kind whatſoever, iſſuing, or to be iſſued, out of our high court of chancery aforeſaid, either at the ſuit of us, our heirs and ſucceſſors, or any of our liege ſubjects whatſoever, is at preſent executed by perſons not eſpecially nominated or appointed by us thereunto, or having our letters patent for the ſame; and we taking the ſaid matter into our princely conſideration, have thought fit, that the ſaid employment of writing, preparing, and ingroſſing all writs of *ſubpœna* aforeſaid, ſhould be erected and created, into an office, as is already eſtabliſhed in our high court of chancery, in our kingdom of England, to be held and executed by ſuch perſon or perſons to whom we, our heirs, and ſucceſſors, ſhall graciouſly pleaſe to grant the ſame; and accordingly our will and pleaſure is, that you do with the advice of our council, learned in the law, cauſe effectual letters patent to be paſſed under the great ſeal of that our kingdom of Ireland, for erecting and creating the ſaid employment into an office, to be called by the name of the *Subpœna*-office, in our high court of chancery, in our kingdom of Ireland, and to be exerciſed and enjoyed by ſuch perſon or perſons as we ſhall think fit to nominate or appoint thereunto: and we being well ſatisfied of the integrity of our well beloved ſubject,

Richard

Richard Aldworth, eſq; and his abilities for the execution and diſcharge of the ſaid office, our further will and pleaſure is, that in the ſaid letters patent, you cauſe a grant from us, our heirs, and ſucceſſors, to be made of the ſaid office, to the ſaid Richard Aldworth, to be held, executed, and enjoyed, by him, the ſaid Richard Aldworth, or his ſufficient deputy, during his natural life, together with all ſuch fees, profits, and perquiſites, and emoluments, as now are, or at any time heretofore have been uſually taken and received by any perſon or perſons for the drawing, writing, and preparing, the writs of *ſubpœna* aforementioned; and in the ſaid letters patent you are alſo to cauſe a clauſe to be inſerted, ſtrictly prohibiting and enjoining our clerk of the Hanaper, and all other our officers of our high court of Chancery, in our kingdom of Ireland, that they do not deliver, or cauſe to be delivered, out to any perſon or perſons whatſoever, any of the writs of *ſubpœna* before mentioned, ſave only ſuch as ſhall be prepared and iſſued by the ſaid Richard Aldworth, or his deputy; and that no ſuch writs of *ſubpœna* aforeſaid, ſhall be admitted, deemed, or taken, as good and authentick, after the date of our ſaid letters patent, but ſuch only as are written and atteſted by him the ſaid Richard Aldworth, or his deputy; any uſe, cuſtom, ſtatute, or proviſion, to the contrary notwithſtanding: inſerting likewiſe all ſuch beneficial clauſes, and *non obſtantes*, as are uſual in grants of like nature, and may render this our intended grace and favour to him the ſaid Richard Aldworth, in law, good and effectually. And for ſo doing, &c. Given, &c.

To Mr. Secretary Coventry.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, June 29, 1675.

WITH much ſatisfaction have I received yours of the 22d inſtant, which brings me his Majeſty's conſent to attend him forthwith; I give you many thanks for your care in this buſineſs, and the continual watchfulneſs you have uſed, upon all opportunities, to acquaint his Majeſty with the truth of things.

I have ordered my coaches and horſes immediately to be put on ſhip board; the next week I ſhall croſs the ſeas myſelf, and haſten what I can to London. Your letter came to me but an hour ago, and this being the night for the poſt to go, and having nothing further material to add, I ſhall conclude with the aſſurance of my being unfeignedly,

Your moſt
faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Godolphin.

Dublin Caſtle, June 29, 1675.

Mr. Godolphin,

TO [illegible] with yours of the 24th, I received on from Mr. Secretary Coventry of the ſame date, upon which, without further heſitation or delay, I can adventure to begin my journey, and in order thereunto, I ſhall forthwith ſhip my coaches for

for Cheſter, intending to be on board myſelf, on Thurſday July the 8th: I ſhall make as quick a diſpatch upon the road, to be at London or Windſor, which of the two the court is at, as my coach, and the company that is with me, will permit. You will take care that I be not unprovided of lodgings either at London or Windſor, as occaſion ſhall require. I am very ſorry we cannot be certain what my lord treaſurer's intentions are, for were I ſure he would be at the Bath, I would not fail to go Milford way, tho' ſomewhat out of the common road, and an inconvenient journey from hence; but you telling me that his lordſhip's remove depends upon the King's going to Windſor, and that both by yours, and others letters, ſeeming very doubtful, I have reſolved of this nearer way by Cheſter, and hope to reach London poſitively before my lord treaſurer goes to the Bath, tho' he ſhould intend that journey; pray make my compliments to my lord treaſurer upon this ſubject.

The laſt week I told my brother Henry, that at my coming to town, I did not deſire any ceremony, more than is uſual; and truly that which is cuſtomary, I conceive to be the propereſt, and will ſhew leaſt of deſign in my coming, therefore you may diſcourſe with him about it, ſo as no more or leſs than the ordinary practice may be obſerved. I have encloſed a news letter, which gives notice of a parliament on the firſt of September, as alſo of my going over about my own private buſineſs; as for the letter, you know how little truth is in it, and even the report of the former, before the confirmation by this letter, has ſet all perſons at work, to make parties for elections, ſo as I cannot but ſay, whoever was the author and contrivet of ſo precipitate a calling of a par-

a parliament here, and likewiſe giving ſuch publick warning thereof, could deſign no other, than that his Majeſty's buſineſs ſhould fail in my hands; whenever a parliament is ſeriouſly reſolved, there muſt of neceſſity be ſix months time allowed for preparing bills, &c. as I have already told you, and beſides, the lieutenant muſt privately know the King's mind before it be divulged, that ſo he may ſpeak with perſons of intereſt, and conſider with them how to have elections made of honeſt men, and ſuch as are well affected to his Majeſty's ſervice: if theſe meaſures will be obſerved with good caution, I make no doubt, but I may another year with good effect ſee a parliament convened. Let Mr. Harbord know that I have his of the 22d, and tell him the time when I ſet out; pray keep private to yourſelf the notice I give you, that Mr. Secretary Coventry has ſent new orders in relation to my going over.

I am,
Your moſt affectionate friend,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Thinne.

Sir, Dublin Caſtle, June 29, 1675.

YOURS of the 22d arrived here, together with the notice from Mr. ſecretary Coventry, and (as you ſay) from no man elſe, that I have liberty to come over; I am getting out as faſt as I can, and hope no countermand will be ſent to require my ſtay, when I ſhall be on the place, which I hope will

will be ſpeedily ; I queſtion not but my journey will be very ſatisfactory to his Majeſty, and then I ſhall have the opportunity to acknowledge your care and induſtry in relation to all buſineſs of this country, and remain,

Your moſt affectionate
and faithful ſervant,
ESSEX.

To the Earl of Angleſey.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, June 29, 1675.

YOURS of the 22d of June came to my hand this day, wherein you mention the concern of the lapſed money. Your lordſhip who underſtands the affairs of this kingdom perfectly, cannot but know that ſeveral queſtions will ariſe in the equal diſtribution of a tax of this nature, but I do aſſure your lordſhip, I have never raiſed any unneceſſary difficulties, and Dr. Hall who ſollicits his buſineſs in my lord of Orrery's behalf, can witneſs, that I have given him all the due diſpatch he could deſire, which I ſhall continue to do ſo long as I ſtay here, and in my abſence, I preſume my lords juſtices may go on in the ſame manner as if I were preſent.

My journey I ſhall begin this next week, ſo as hoping to ſee your lordſhip ſpeedily, I need add no more, remaining with perfect truth,

Your Lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,
ESSEX.

To

To the lord Ranelagh.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, June 29, 1675.

THE court of exchequer have yeſterday given judgment againſt Hawkins of this town, ſo as I preſume all the reſt who are intereſted in the mean profits of land, ſet out, for Engliſh arrears and doubling ordnance money will come in, and not ſtand any further trial; his Majeſty's letter impowers me to make compoſitions and agreements with the parties concerned, which I ſhall do to the beſt advantage I can, but my journey into England being ſo near as the next week, I fear I ſhall myſelf diſpatch little of this buſineſs, yet when I go, I ſhall leave this affair in ſafe hands, to treat with perſons, but not to conclude without my ſpecial directions.

I am, your lordſhip's

moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the lord Aungier.

My Lord, Dublin Caſtle, June 29, 1675.

I Have received yours of the 22d, and give your lordſhip thanks for the intelligences you therein ſend me; I am juſt preparing for my journey, which I will haſten with all the ſpeed I can, and therefore have nothing to add, but to deſire the continuance of your kindneſs to

Your lordſhip's moſt
faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the earl of Arlington.

My Lord, London, July 24th, 1675.

ON Wedneſday laſt, I had the ſatisfaction of a letter from your lordſhip; I am ſorry it was my misfortune to arrive after you left the court, and I fear I ſhall not ſtay long enough to ſee your lordſhip, at your return; but wherever I am, your lordſhip may aſſure yourſelf of all real and faithful ſervices, which to the utmoſt of my power can be performed to you, and I ſhall never forget the obligations which your lordſhip has been pleaſed to place upon me.

The money in queſtion between your lordſhip and my lord Ranelagh muſt be determined before I go back; it may perhaps be a queſtion, whether the King will have the benefit of this 1250 l. or permit your

your lordſhip to receive it, and for this your lordſhip has his Majeſty's letter; but I do not, if I rightly apprehend the caſe, ſee how my lord Ranelagh can avoid the payment of it: having nothing further to add, I deſire your lordſhip will continue the belief and eſteem of me, as being

Your lordſhip's moſt faithful,
and moſt humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lords Juſtices.

My Lords, London, July 27th, 1675.

I Have received your lordſhips of the 14th inſtant, together with the papers encloſed, concerning Mr. Nugent; the matter, as I conceive, requires no great haſte, and as yet I have not had leiſure to peruſe and conſider it, but ſo ſoon as I ſhall get time, I ſhall examine his pretenſions, and then your lordſhips ſhall hear further from me.

When the privy council here, ſat laſt, ſome rules were agreed for the giving of paſſes to ſhips, and becauſe it was conceived uſeful to purſue the ſame method in granting paſſes for ſhips in Ireland, a copy was ordered to be ſent me, the tranſcript whereof is here encloſed, that in caſe any ſue for ſuch paſſes, your lordſhips may be inſtructed in what form to grant them. As I was writing this letter, another from your lordſhips of the 17th arrived, wherein you acquaint me with the late proceedings in the city of Dublin; I am very glad that Sir John Tottie

and

and Mr. Philpot are diſpatched, it being a hopeful ſign that the city will at length return to their right ſenſes again; as for the mayor, I did indeed recommend Mr. Jarvis as a man of ſome ſpirit and reſolution, and therefore fit to ſupply the place at this time; but if alderman Smith, who truly I did not nominate, in regard he lives frequently out of town, will take it, he is a man without exception, and I ſhould be glad he had it before any other, but either of them, I conceive, may do very well.

I am, your lordſhips
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To ſir Arthur Forbeſe.

Sir, London, July 27th, 1675.

SINCE my arrival here, I find all things very fair and clear towards me, and that which pleaſes me beſt is, that I perceive an inclination to give me a ſpeedy diſpatch, and I hope it will be found my journey will be of advantage to his Majeſty's ſervice. I have ſo little time at my firſt coming to town, as I can ſay no more, but conclude with telling you, I am ever with ſincerity,

Your moſt faithful
and affectionate ſervant,

ESSEX.

To

To the lord Chancellor.

My Lord, London, July 27th, 1675.

I Have ſo little time to myſelf now, upon entering into affairs here, as I have much ado to get leiſure to write any letters; however that your grace may know how things ſtand in relation to myſelf, I can give you this brief account; my reception here hath been as kind as is poſſible, and that which is moſt obliging of all, is the readineſs that I meet with among all his Majeſty's miniſters, to give me a ſpeedy diſpatch; we have made ſome entries at the privy council, upon the affairs which occaſioned my journey, and by what I can diſcern, it will not be long ere I ſhall conclude all, and return. Juſt now there is news arrived for certain, that Marſhal Turene, as he was going with a ſmall party, to view ſome ground, was killed with a cannon ſhot; his death as is believed, will undoubtedly be of great conſequence to affairs abroad.

I am, your Grace's moſt
faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To

To the lords Juſtices.

My Lords, London, July 31, 1675.

I Have acquainted the King with the ſeveral informations you ſent me, concerning the late taking away of a Dutch ſhip out of the port of Dublin; his Majeſty ſeems very ſenſible of the injury, but the examinations not naming the ſhip, nor the captain which committed the fact, I do a little doubt how reparation can be demanded; this affair will be conſidered here, and ſome order taken therein.

I am, your lordſhips
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the lords Juſtices.

My Lords, Bath, Auguſt 21. 1675.

I Have received two of your letters of the 10th of Auguſt, in one of them was encloſed a petition of Jacob Jedtſes, concerning the ſhip which was lately taken by the French privateer; ſo ſoon as I wait upon the King, which will be the next week, I ſhall acquaint him with the matter: the other encloſed a ſtate of the condition of Sir Hugh Middleton's company: as for ſuch monies which he hath taken upon impreſt, the company muſt be reimburſed it again, by the commiſſioners of the treaſury, there being an order long ago ſent them, not to impreſt

any money, other than the officers pay, unleſs warranted by myſelf; and if they do venture to impreſt to the officers, it muſt be at their own peril; and if any private perſons furniſh money or impreſt, they muſt even take their fortune in it, for the company is not to anſwer an impreſt charged by the captain; when I am at London, I will hear what Sir Hugh Middleton can ſay to the complaint, I ſhall then alſo return your lordſhips my reſolution to the queries concerning the precedence of officers, and remain,

Your lordſhips
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the lord Chancellor.

London, September 11, 1675.

My Lord,

I Have ſat ſo long at the treaſury chamber, concerning the future ordering of his Majeſty's revenue in Ireland, as I have ſcarce time to write to your grace before the poſt goes, and what I ſay, can only be very ſhort; his Majeſty has agreed for putting the revenue in Mr. Pitts, Sir John Baber, and Sir William Petty's hands, &c. for nine years, they are to be in the nature of managers, or commiſſioners of his Majeſty's revenue, but are to enter into good ſecurity for the payment of 240000l. *per annum.*

I have

I have acquainted his Majeſty with the French captain, which you have ſecured; it was impoſſible to return what his pleaſure is upon this ſubject to day, his Majeſty being ſo full of buſineſs; but by the next poſt I ſhall tranſmit it to your grace.

I muſt a little conſider and take ſome advice about the patent concerning Athlone, which your grace acquainted me with in your particular letter, ſo ſoon as I have done it, your grace ſhall hear again from me; in the mean time I deſire you would communicate this letter to Sir Arthur Forbeſe, and let him know what haſte I am in at preſent, I remain,

Your Grace's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the lords Juſtices.

London, September 14, 1675.

My Lords,

I Have received your lordſhips of the 4th, and ſhall willingly conſent to the exchange of the two lieutenants therein mentioned, Sir Richard Aldworth and captain Congreve; but I hope I am ſo near my journey, as there ſhall not need to be any blank commiſſions ſent for them. His Majeſty approving well of your lordſhips ſeizing the French privateer, who lately gave ſo much diſturbance to the trade of Dublin, hath reſolved to proceed againſt the captain according to the ordinary courſe of law; and that

your lordſhips may know what ſhall be done in this affair, I have herewith encloſed Mr. Secretary Coventry's letter, ſignifying his Majeſty's pleaſure, which I deſire you will purſue ſo ſoon as Sir Lyonel Jenkins hath given his opinion, in what manner the captain and ſhip are to be brought to trial: your lordſhips ſhall have notice what is further to be done.

I am, your lordſhips
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the lords Juſtices.

London, September 18, 1675.

My Lords,

SOME little time before I left Dublin, I ſent an order by conſent of the commiſſioners of the treaſury, to the farmers at Cork-houſe, requiring them to keep in their hands two thouſand five hundred pounds, due by patent, to the duke of Ormond, out of the quit-rents, till they ſhould receive ſome further direction from me; this matter having been in debate here, my lord Ranelagh has conſented, that it ſhall be paid unto my lord duke of Ormond; there is this circumſtance in the caſe fit to acquaint your lordſhips with, that regularly the money ought to have been paid out of the rents due at Lady day laſt, but for the convenience of the undertaking I transferred it to the quarter due at Midſummer; therefore your lordſhips may be pleaſed to direct your order

order accordingly, that his grace may receive the benefit of his patent.

I am,
Your lordſhips
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Sir Arthur Forbeſe.

Sir, London, September 25, 1675.

THERE hath happened a thing of ſome importance here, which in regard it relates to Ireland, and ſome perſons may officiouſly write over, and perhaps in ſuch terms as may be to the diſadvantage of a great perſon here, who hath appeared much my friend, and done me ſeveral good offices; I conceive it may not be amiſs, that yourſelf, for whom I have a moſt particular eſteem, do know the truth, that ſo you may do right to the perſon concerned, in caſe any thing be ſtirred to his prejudice.

On Thurſday Mr. Pitts, comptroller to the duke, being called to the committee appointed by his Majeſty, to conſider of the propoſals for the new farm, he behaved himſelf in ſo unhandſome a manner, as I have never ſeen the like, ſpeaking in moſt rude and indecent terms to Mr. Secretary Coventry and my lord treaſurer, and to the latter with moſt unworthy reflections; on Friday he was called again, the King himſelf being preſent, where he behaved himſelf ſtill worſe than before, and being preſſed to explain what he meant by the word directed to my lord treaſurer, he ſaid, that which he had to offer, was upon the

collections he had made by that which he had heard from others; and being further urged to ſpeak out, and tell the ſubſtance of what he had to object, after many ſhiftings, he ſaid, that my lord treaſurer had an underſtanding with ſome of thoſe who treated for the farm. My lord treaſurer behaved himſelf very worthily on the occaſion, and the other rather like a mad man, than one who underſtood what he attempted; his Majeſty hath appointed to-morrow in the afternoon to hear the buſineſs; I am confident ſome by ends have provoked Mr. Pitts to do what he hath done, and 'tis fit he ſhould ſmart ſeverely for it, if he fail (which I have good grounds to believe he will do) in his proof: 'tis late, and therefore I give you this imperfect account, to avoid miſinformation.

I am, Your moſt affectionate
and moſt humble ſervant,
ESSEX.

To the Lords Juſtices.

My Lords, London, Sept. 28, 1675.

I DO herewith ſend your lordſhips a copy of my orders concerning the removal of the forces out of the North, which you may pleaſe to put in execution, and place them in ſuch quarters as you judge moſt convenient. Here is alſo a petition of Mr. Dempſey, which hath been ſhewn his Majeſty, who being informed that the Governors on the place have always power to pardon, his Majeſty did not think fit to interpoſe by letter; wherefore you may pleaſe to enquire how the matter goes upon the trial, in caſe it happens to be before my arrival; and if it appears as 'tis ſtated in the petition, he may ſeem a proper object of mercy. I have

I have received your lordſhips of the 21ſt inſtant, and do well approve of that care you have taken for the pay due to the northern forces. As to the lieutenant and boatſwain of the French ſhip, I do conceive his Majeſty's intention was not to detain either of them, but only the commander himſelf, they being to obey his orders: however, not having time to know his Majeſty's pleaſure, I muſt reſpite the ſaying any thing therein poſitively 'till the next poſt. The farm was on Sunday laſt quite concluded with Sir William Petty, Sir James Shean, &c. Mr. Pitts and Sir John Baber are gone out, and Mr. Hill and one Mr. Rider, reputed a wealthy man, are come into their places. This being done, and my inſtructions already ſigned, and ſeveral other things diſpatched, I hope to begin my journey very ſuddenly, and do therefore deſire your Lordſhips will be pleaſed to order the yatch and dogger boats to attend me at Holyhead on the 17th of October. I am,

Your Lordſhips

moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Chancellor.

My Lord, London, Oct. 2, 1675.

I HAVE received your Grace's of the 21ſt of September, and do fully agree with you in your opinion concerning the farm: for 'tis almoſt impoſſible for his Majeſty's council at law here to know

and underſtand all the little intrigues relating to his revenue of that kingdom of Ireland; and I am confident, that as my being on the place hath been of ſome advantage to his Majeſty in the ſetting of the farm, the aſſiſtance of Sir John Temple, his Majeſty's ſollicitor for that kingdom, will be of great uſe to the attorney-general here in drawing the covenants; and the attorney himſelf, who is as worthy and knowing a perſon as I have ever met with, is ſufficiently ſenſible thereof. I am very deſirous this buſineſs ſhould be perfected before I ſtir; and, indeed, I hope it will be ſo, and that I ſhall be able to begin my journey about Tueſday or Wedneſday come ſe'nnight, at leaſt within a day or two of that time. Sir Lionel Jenkins hath given his opinion to his Majeſty concerning the French captain Chelin, and by the next I ſhall ſend your Grace and Sir Arthur Forbeſe a copy thereof, together with his Majeſty's order concerning the trial of him, as alſo a direction what ſhall be done with the lieutenant and boatſwain, who are yet detained priſoners. Having nothing further to add, I remain,

Your Grace's

moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To

To Sir Arthur Forbeſe.

Sir, London, Oct. 2, 1675.

I HAVE received yours of the 21ſt of September, together with the letter of intelligence out of Scotland, of which his Majeſty has been made acquainted. Several of the like accounts have come from thence hither, and I found my lord duke of Lauderdale knew of that lord's being in Ireland, which you name in your letter. Having made it known to his Majeſty, I have no further to do with the affairs of that country; but I perceive that they are pretty confident here, that tho' many are diſcontented in Scotland, yet matters will end well.

I have written by this packet to my lord Chancellor, and have ſaid ſomething concerning the French captain, which, preſuming his will tell you, I ſhall add no more, remaining with perfect truth,

Your moſt affectionate
and faithful ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lords Juſtices.

London, Oct. 26, 1675.

My Lords,

I HAVE received your Lordſhips of the 20th inſtant, and am very glad to hear that you have found an expedient to anſwer the pay to the northern forces, that they may be enabled to remove into other quarters.

As

As ſoon as the bargain was made for new farming the revenue of Ireland, I did move his Majeſty, that the whole advance-money, being 60000l. might be reſerved untouched, to ſupply ſuch defects as would appear at Chriſtmas next, on the winding up of my lord Ranelagh's undertaking; it being eaſy to foreſee, that conſidering the defalcations which have been allowed to the farmers, and the monies overpaid by my lord Ranelagh, a large proportion of the growing pay on the civil and military liſts, would then remain unſatisfied, his Majeſty having promiſed that this ſum ſhall be kept intire for thoſe uſes. I deſire you will ſtruggle it out as well as you can, in the mean time, and I do hope this money will enable us to clear things reaſonably well, and ſupport the government for the future, till the new rents payable do come in.

I have herewith encloſed the report of Sir Lionel Jenkins, together with the order of the council, in relation to Chelin. Your Lordſhips may pleaſe to make him ſenſible of the condition he is in, and that 'tis purely his Majeſty's mercy he is not proceeded againſt for his life: that therefore he muſt ſpeedily take care to give ſatisfaction for the loſſes theſe merchants have ſuſtained, or otherwiſe proceſs will go on againſt them. The order of council giving ſo full directions in the point, I need add nothing more. Here is alſo encloſed a letter in behalf of Dr. Taafe, for paſſing a patent on a certificate, which grant your lordſhip may be pleaſed to perfect. As for your rooms in the cuſtom-houſe, mentioned in your letter to be paſſed to the uſe of the lord Ranelagh and future vice-treaſurers, here is a perſon who claims them by patent, as belonging to the craner's office: yet I ſhall not ſtop them on that

ſcore;

ſcore; but the reaſon why I deſire your Lordſhips will ſuſpend it for ſome little time, is, leſt the new farmers might, by their agreements, have ſome little right to it; and I ſhould be loth, upon ſo ſlight a particular, to embrace ſo great a bargain. Within a day or two ſome of them may be ſpoken with; and if they have no pretenſions to theſe rooms, I ſhall by the next leave your lordſhips at liberty to grant them conformable to his Majeſty's letters.

Here is one Mr. Gill, who hath petitioned me to be excuſed from being ſheriff of the county of Down. Some friends of his having importuned me in the thing, I deſire your Lordſhips will be pleaſed not to prick him this year. I remain,

Your Lordſhips
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lords Juſtices.

London, Oct. 31, 1675.

My Lords,

I HAVE received yours of the 26th of October, which arrived not till Wedneſday, ſo as the poſt was gone ere I had it. I preſume, before this, orders concerning the privateer, which I ſent ten days or a fortnight ſince, will be come to you. The new farmers, not having as yet paſſed their patent, I cannot certainly prefix the time when I ſhall be going, it being requiſite that I ſee the matter ſettled before I ſtir. One of my ſervants, Thomas Skelton, is lately dead;

dead; having a ſmall employment, either cuſtomer or collector of the port of Galway, I deſire your lordſhips will be pleaſed to grant it to Robert Jones, a very honeſt man, and one who hath ſerved me ever ſince my coming into Ireland, and upon that account I recommend him to your lordſhips. I am glad to hear the city of Dublin continues ſo quiet. Sir John Totty is in town, and complaining perpetually of his hard uſage, but I do not find he is likely to meet with any countenance in this place; ſo as I hope we ſhall hereafter have no more trouble from thoſe ſeditious people. Your Lordſhips acquainted me with a letter you had received for the granting ſome rooms to the vice-treaſurer: you may pleaſe to paſs the patent ſo ſoon as you ſhall think fit. I am,

Your Lordſhips
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lords Juſtices.

London, Nov. 6, 1675.

My Lords,

YOUR Lordſhips will herewith receive a letter ſigned by his Majeſty for the paſſing a new grant of his land to the lord Fitzharding, and for the remittal of his quit-rents. The matter hath been fully conſidered by his Majeſty here, and he is reſolved the patent ſhall paſs; wherefore your Lordſhips may be pleaſed to perfect the grant ſo ſoon as application

application ſhall be made to you in my lord Fitzharding's behalf. I am,

Your Lordſhips
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

The like letter was ſent to the Lords Juſtices in behalf of the lord Clare and lord Dillon.

To Sir Arthur Forbeſe.

Sir, London, Nov. 2, 1675.

I HAVE received yours of the 27th laſt paſt, wherein you mention a captain to be lately dead. His Majeſty has promiſed ſo many, and recommended divers of them ſo effectually to me for employments of this ſort, that being on the place, I intend, before I diſpoſe of this command, to acquaint his Majeſty therewith.

The other day my lord Ranelagh alledging, that he had already paid the ten months arrear to the army, had there been any order for the ſo doing, and by the next poſt appointed Mr. Beecher to remind yourſelf and my lord Chancellor to iſſue ſuch warrants as are neceſſary in this buſineſs, I deſire you would communicate this matter to my lord Chancellor, that no delay may prejudice the army therein. The poſt being juſt going, I can ſay no more, but that I am, with perfect truth,

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To

To Sir Joſeph Williamſon.

Sir, London, Nov. 12, 1675.

I HAVE peruſed the draft of a letter for the granting of ſeveral quit-rents to Sir William Talbot, and ſhall only obſerve this to you, that the 1000l. *per annum*, which his Majeſty has reſerved to himſelf to diſcharge as of grace, is already diſpoſed of. I muſt alſo tell you, that the quit-rents by this letter intended to be paſt, are iſſuable out of proteſtants eſtates, which I have ever thought inconvenient to be granted to perſons of the Romiſh perſuaſion. This having acquainted you with, I ſhall humbly ſubmit to any further declaration of his Majeſty's pleaſure, who am,

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lords Juſtices.

London, Nov. 12, 1675.

My Lords,

YOUR Lordſhips will herewith receive a liſt of ſuch perſons as have letters for the remittal of their quit-rents out of the 1000 l. *per annum*, which his Majeſty hath reſerved power to himſelf to diſcharge, as of grace; their ſeveral pretenſions having been fully conſidered by his Majeſty here, I have already recommended the paſſing of ſome of their patents; and for the reſt, I deſire your lordſhips will be

be pleaſed to diſpatch them as they ſhall come in courſe. I am,

Your Lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

Perſons who have pretenſions to be diſcharged of quit-rents out of the 1000l. *per annum*.

Mr. Fleming - -	£. 56
Lord Fitzharding - -	346
Sir Philip Percival -	80
Lord Dillon - - -	455
Lord Clare - - -	354
	1290
Mr. Legg hath a particular promiſe	92 14

To the Lord Chancellor.

London, Nov. 16, 1675.

My Lord,

I HAVE received your lordſhip's of the 6th inſtant, together with two others of the 30th of October and 2d of November, which I ordered Mr. Beecher to acknowledge. As for the difference between Sir William Davis and Mr. ſerjeant Oſborn, I am not willing to concern myſelf in it; but methinks it might better be determined on the place, either by the King at arms, or the judges, to whom it

it more properly belongs. The new farmers here are going on with their grants; and I hope in one week more that buſineſs will be perfected; which done, I ſuppoſe my ſtay will be but few days longer. Having nothing further to add, I remain with all truth,

Your Lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lords Juſtices.

London, Nov. 16, 1675.

My Lords,

YOUR Lordſhips will herewith receive a petition of Sir Hugh Middleton, for the taking off a ſtop which is now upon his pay. I deſire your lordſhips will be pleaſed to conſider his caſe; and tho' I am confident he hath been much to blame in the management of this affair of his company, yet you may be pleaſed to ſhew him ſome favour in allowing him ſome of his pay, he lying now in a very weak condition, and having, as I believe, no other ſupport but his command, for the maintenance of himſelf and his family.

I am informed, that ſeveral of the foot companies in Ireland are in great neceſſity of clothing, and that the commiſſioners of the treaſury, when they give out their aſſignments for the pay of the army, and make their deductions for their cloaths, yet, at the ſame time, they do not anſwer the money ſo deducted, tho'

they

they charge it as paid to the ſoldiers. Your lordſhips may pleaſe to take this matter into conſideration, and to order that the monies for cloathing the army be paid to the undertakers, by ſuch equal proportions, as it becomes due, and as the commiſſioners of the treaſury diſcount it for the ſame. His Majeſty formerly ſigned a letter for the granting Sir Henry Howard all the forfeited lands, goods, &c. of one ——— Wibrance a merchant in Dublin. I deſire your Lordſhips would give ſuch directions therein as you find convenient. I hope now to be diſpatched within a fortnight, and by the next I may tell your Lordſhips the day I deſign to begin my journey. I am,

Your Lordſhips

moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Sir Arthur Forbeſe.

London, Nov. 16, 1675.

Sir,

I AM very ſorry to hear your indiſpoſition hath forced you to go into the country for air, but I hope this will find you returned in good health again. Your letter, to paſs your patent for a viſcount, I have herewith encloſed. I had ſent it ſooner, but that every day hoped to be diſpatched, ſo as I might have come over and paſſed it myſelf. I foreſee my keep-

ing it ſo long by me hath hindered you of one place; for my lord Aungier, as I am told, is paſſing a patent here to be a viſcount; and leſt it ſhould be more to your prejudice, if I ſhould detain it, I have now haſtened it to you. I am,

Your moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Earl of Carlingford.

London, Nov. 23, 1675.

My Lord,

YOUR lordſhip's letters of the 6th and 20th of November, I am to acknowledge. As for my lord Ranelagh's pretenſions to the arrears of quit-rents on Mr. White's land, ever ſince they were decreed, the lawyers where you are can beſt inform you, upon the peruſal of my lord Ranelagh's contract; but, for my own part, I am apt to think he hath ſome title to them.

I ſhall not fail in giving my utmoſt aſſiſtance to his Majeſty for the conſidering your lordſhip's condition; and if my advices may prevail, you ſhall not be forgotten on the new eſtabliſhment. 'Tis not ſtrange that it ſhould be written into Ireland that I ſhould not return, it being the talk of this town for many days; but, I am certain, without the leaſt ground in the world, his Majeſty having commanded me yeſterday to prepare ſpeedily for my journey. For the

the little complaints which may be made againſt me, I do not hear any of them ſtirring; nor, I am ſure, can they find any thing material to object. Upon the whole, I am not at all uneaſy at the little ſtories and reports that fly abroad; and ſhall always endeavour to preſerve the repute of an honeſt man; and, upon that ſcore, I doubt not to continue in your lordſhip's eſteem, which is much valued by,

Your Lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Mr. Sollicitor.

Sir, London, Nov. 23, 1675.

I HAVE received yours of the 16th of November, and give you thanks for the care you have taken to poſſeſs my wife with the falſhood of thoſe reports that are ſent over, which ſeem ſo much to trouble her: indeed, I do believe, that the diſquiet which ſhe took was the occaſion of her coming before her time. As to my return, I am very certain I ſhall, tho' ſome here have endeavoured what they could to prevent it. I would be glad the farm were ſettled: we think it now pretty near; and, I am ſure, the farmers have at leaſt 50000l. ready of their advance-money. After the warrant is ſigned, they are to pay down 20000l. which done, I ſhall immediately prepare to come away. I have ſo much buſi-

neſs, that I cannot write more at large to you, however, you may be aſſured, that I am with perfect truth,

Your moſt affectionate humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lords Juſtices.

London, Nov. 23, 1675.

My Lords,

HERE is little now to give you an account of, ſave only, that the farm ſeems to be very near agreed. As ſoon as the warrant is ſigned, I ſhall immediately prepare to return. In your lordſhip's letter of the 13th, you mention Mr. Philpot, who ſtill continues under reſtraint. The crime for which he was committed, being the publiſhing ſome ſeditious books, I conceive he has ſuffered enough for an offence of that nature, and, upon application, your Lordſhips may pleaſe to diſmiſs him. Your Lordſhips will herewith receive a letter in favour of col. Legg, which you may pleaſe to paſs, when his agent ſhall ſollicit it. I am,

Your Lordſhips

moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lords Juſtices.

London, Dec. 4, 1675.

My Lords,

I CAN now tell you, that the farm is concluded, the warrant for paſſing the patent being ſigned. The farmers were to pay 20000l. down this day, and are to pay 10000l. more on the 26th of December, and the 30000l. being the remainder of the advance-money upon ſealing their patent, which is to be perfected by the 20th of January next. In the mean time Chriſtmas drawing ſo near, at which time the preſent farm expiring, and conſequently no officers in power to collect the revenue, a commiſſion is ordered to be expedited forthwith, for putting the revenue into management, wherein there are five commiſſioners named on his Majeſty's behalf, and ſix on the farmers. Thoſe on the King's, I propoſed to be Sir Charles Meredith and Sir James Cuff, who are likewiſe to continue during the whole time of the farm, to ſuperviſe, and I know all things acted by the farmers, as monies received, &c. The other on his Majeſty's part, are Capt. Stone, Dr. Ward, and Mr. Thomas Taylor: they are not as yet approved by his Majeſty, but I preſume they will be allowed, and the commiſſion compleated on Monday next: however, it is neceſſary that ſome perſons be impowered immediately from Chriſtmas next to collect the King's revenue, and therefore 'tis expedient a proclamation be iſſued, authorizing all the collectors of the preſent farm to proceed as his Majeſty's officers from Chriſtmas next, to gather in the revenue. I deſire your Lordſhips to direct his Majeſty's council

to prepare a proclamation accordingly, ordering theſe preſent collectors, as his Majeſty's officers, to go on with their receipts from and after Chriſtmas, and to be entertained with the ſame ſalaries, and on the ſame terms, and to account in the ſame manner as they have done, and now do, for the preſent farmers. Upon Tueſday next your Lordſhips ſhall receive advice from me to iſſue the ſaid proclamation. There is a letter of my lord Ranelagh for granting the inheritance of Athlone to him: it reſts in Mr. Roger Jones's hands. I look upon that place to be of ſuch conſequence, as I was unwilling to paſs the Inheritance barely upon the King's letter, leſt ſome queſtion might hereafter ariſe; and therefore deſired it might be debated in council here, which it was yeſterday, and the King then ordered it ſhould be done; ſo that your Lordſhips may pleaſe to paſs it when you think fit. I herewith ſend you a petition of one Mr. Mandeville; your Lordſhips may peruſe, and give ſuch orders in it as you think convenient. Sir Philip Percival's letter for the remittal of his quit-rents, ſent ſome time ſince, your Lordſhips may alſo pleaſe to paſs, his Majeſty having given particular orders therein.

There is likewiſe a patent for one Purden, whoſe buſineſs Mr. Sollicitor underſtands thoroughly; and, I believe, there is no hazard in giving him a new grant: if your Lordſhips, upon conſideration, are of the ſame mind, you may pleaſe to do it. Sir Robert Hamilton is very ſolicitous for 100l. more out of the *Concordatum*, as ſecretary to the commiſſioners of accounts and council of trade. I know not well how theſe monies may be charged, but I recommend it

it to your Lordſhips to do therein, as your ſtock will hold out. I am,

Your Lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Granard.

London, Dec. 4, 1675.

My Lord,

YOUR laſt letter brings me very melancholy news concerning the pay of the army, by reaſon of the ſtop which the farmers take the liberty to make upon their rents and cuſtoms. We are now immediately paying in 20000l. to the Foarths here, upon their engagements forthwith to ſend orders to their commiſſioners in Ireland to pay 30000l. there; ſo as I hope this defect will be preſently remedied: and indeed it is more than time it ſhould. The perpetual trouble of ſolliciting buſineſs gives me ſo little time, that I cannot write ſo at large to you as I would: however, I deſire your Lordſhip to eſteem me, with perfect truth,

Your Lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lords Juſtices.

London, Dec. 7, 1675.

My Lords,

I HAVE received your Lordſhips of the 30th of November. The ſtop of monies by the farmers, cannot but put you to many ſtreights in Ireland. I hope that matter is come to ſo good a concluſion now between the lord Ranelagh and principal farmers here, as your Lordſhips will find no farther trouble therein: a copy of the agreement is herewith encloſed, ſo as now the pay of the army will reſt wholly upon the undertakers. By the laſt I gave your Lordſhips notice of the neceſſity of a proclamation to be ſpeedily iſſued, declaring the farmers receivers to be the King's officers; this ſhould be ſpeeded as ſoon as may be. I have herewith ſent you a draft of one to that effect. I deſire your Lordſhips will let it be peruſed by his Majeſty's learned council, but ſuch additions and alterations as are found neceſſary, may be inſerted, and the proclamation immediately publiſhed, that no time may be loſt therein.

I am now well aſſured that I ſhall begin my journey on Monday next, being the 13th inſtant, and hope to reach Holyhead by the one or two and twentieth: wherefore I deſire your Lordſhips would be pleaſed to order the yatch to meet me there. I am,

Your Lordſhips
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To

To the Lord Granard.

London, Dec. 7, 1675.

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Lordſhip's of the 29th of November, the moſt part of it diſcourſing of the calling of a parliament in Ireland. I am clearly of opinion, it would be much for his Majeſty's ſervice; and I am confident, if right means were taken, they would readily be brought to grant his Majeſty ſo conſiderable a ſupply, as would ſet all things in very good order in that kingdom. But the neceſſary preparations to it cannot be effected; and matters are in ſuch poſture here, as make me deſpair of any good to be done by a parliament in Ireland. And therefore I conceive, till a happier conjuncture, 'tis rather better to let it alone than to call one, and be baffled in it.

I now hope to be with your Lordſhip ſo ſoon, that I ſhall not diſpoſe of the lieutenant's place till I arrive, who am,

Your Lordſhip's

moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To

To the Lords Juſtices.

Whitehall, Dec. 14, 1675.

My Lords,

THE commiſſion for managing his Majeſty's revenue, with the warrant thereunto annexed, containing the heads of the agreement with the intended farmers thereof, who have already advanced 20000 l. upon the ſame, is this day diſpatched from hence, and ſent by Mr. Edward Wigg and Mr. Thomas Waller, who are two of the commiſſioners therein named. I deſire your Lordſhips to haſten the taking the uſual oaths, and ſecurity of ſuch of the commiſſioners as ſhall be on the place, in ſuch manner as was done by the commiſſioners for the late farmers, and to give what other aſſiſtance and diſpatch your Lordſhips ſhall think fit, for the effectual carrying on of the intentions thereof; foraſmuch, as the defaults and the miſcarriages which may happen concerning the ſame, may tend to his Majeſty's diſadvantage, as well as to the loſs of the intended farmers.

I am, your lordſhips
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

Sir Charles Meredith and Sir James Cuff are not to enter into the ſecurity, as your Lordſhips will find by the commiſſion.

To

To the Lords Juſtices.

My Lords, London, Dec 18, 1675.

YOUR Lordſhips of the 4th inſtant is received. I had begun my journey this week, but that I could not get the eſtabliſhment compleated, ſome little queſtions ariſing thereupon. I hope, in a day or two more, to get it perfected; but Chriſtmas drawing ſo near, I ſhall ſtay the holidays here, and after they are over, ſet forth, ſo as to be at the ſea-ſide before the full moon in January. I have encloſed copies of the two petitions of Sir John Tottie, together with the order of council thereupon. Theſe being read in council, I made a brief narrative to his Majeſty of our proceedings in the matter of the city of Dublin. I alſo acquainted his Majeſty that Sir John Tottie and Mr. Philpot had endeavoured to engage ſheriff Sands, when ſheriff, to head 19 corporations, and that Sands had delivered this upon oath before the privy council of Ireland; upon which a warrant being iſſued to apprehend Sir John Tottie, he fled into England. My diſcourſe being ended, Sir John Tottie was heard what he could ſay, and did not find one privy council ſpeak the leaſt word in his behalf, but were all unanimous in their conſents to the order. I hope thoſe troubleſome people will now be quiet, and the city, for the future, continue in perfect repoſe.

Sir Hugh Middleton died ſo very poor, that my ſteward was fain to furniſh money for his burial, which I deſire your Lordſhips will direct to be ſatisfied out of Sir Hugh Middleton's pay. I am,

Your Lordſhips

moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To

ment. However, I have not been wanting in laying all the inconveniencies before his Majeſty, and offering ſuch remedies as do occur to me. I intend, God willing, to begin my journey about the 5th or 6th of the next month, and am,

Your Lordſhips
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To Mr. ſecretary Coventry.

Sir, London, Dec. 22, 1675.

PErceiving that the lord Treaſurer and the lord Ranelagh do deſign to draw as much money as poſſible they can from Ireland, and employ it in England, and foreſeeing that this will cauſe not only a ſtop of two months pay to the army at Chriſtmas, but hazard the payment alſo of the Michaelmas pay, and bring divers other inconveniencies on that poor country, and tho' I hope no diſorder will thence enſue, yet, in regard no perſon is called to theſe conſultations but the lord Treaſurer, the lord Ranelagh, and myſelf (who have vigorouſly, but in vain oppoſed all theſe advices) and, that upon experience of their practices, I do believe they will father theſe councils upon me, or at leaſt ſay that I was conſenting, and very probably will endeavour in the army of Ireland to divulge this, thereby to render me odious to them: I do therefore leave this letter with you, as my intire friend, that you may produce it at ſuch convenient time as may ſerve for my juſtification, and as an evi-

dence

dence that I have not failed in my duty towards the King my Maſter, but, according to my conſcience, have counſelled him that which I conceived was for his profit and ſervice.

The diſcreet uſe which I am aſſured you will make of this and the other paper, will eternally oblige,

Your moſt faithful,
moſt humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

To the Lord Fitzharding.

London, Dec. 30, 1675.

My Lord,

I HAVE received your lordſhip's of the 27th inſtant, and am very ready to give my aſſiſtance in all your concerns, particularly in this of the 200 l. which I ſhall not fail to repreſent as one of the debts his Majeſty is to pay; and on the diſtribution of the money upon this new farm, I ſhall not be wanting to urge your caſe, as in all other things I ſhall do your lordſhip the beſt ſervice I can, being moſt really,

Your Lordſhip's
moſt faithful humble ſervant,

ESSEX.

FINIS.

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